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1. If a person orders his paper discontinued, he must pay all arrearages, or the publisher may continue to send it until payment is made, and collect the whole amount, whether the paper is taken from the office or not.

2. The courts have decided that refusing to take Newspapers or Periodicals from the Postoffice, or removing and leaving them uncalled for, is prima facie evidence of intentional fraud.

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The Pittsburgh Commercial.

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WASHINGTON.

THE MESSAGE SATISFACTORY TO ALL PARTIES.

Composition of the Committees

Protectionists Not Pleased with the Ways and Means.

Report of the Chief Engineer.

Estimated Expenditures for 1873.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., December 4, 1871.

The Message

Was received with great satisfaction in both Houses to-day, and the recommendations concerning taxation, tariff and amnesty are regarded generally as insuring for it very great popularity throughout the country. The amnesty feature was entirely unexpected, and Democrats are warm in expressions of approval of that portion.

The Committees.

Speaker Blaine got off to-day from his disagreeable task of appointing committees with less censure than is customary on these occasions. There were more or less complaints, but these have now come to be a recognized feature necessarily accompanying the discharge of this complicated undertaking. There are quite a number of members who insist that the committees as announced to-day have been considerably changed since the Speaker's first arrival in the city, and that in no inconsiderable number of instances these changes have been made as a matter of political expediency than any sincere regard for the public service. However this may be, the majority of members are satisfied with their assignments. As heretofore stated, Mr. Dawes was transferred to the Committee of Ways and Means, and Garfield was assigned to Dawes's old place on Appropriations. It cannot be said that either of these gentlemen is entirely satisfied with his present position, or that either feels that his tastes or anticipations have been complied with. The tariff element in Congress is not only disappointed that Kelley was not elected chairmanship, but is also somewhat disgusted with the general composition of the Ways and Means Committee. Five protectionists on this Committee were counted upon, and great is the chagrin at the failure in this direction. Butler is second on the Judiciary Committee and first only on the obscure organization, whose duty it is to keep well read up in United States statutes. At least this is the way in which he puts it. He wanted and expected Military Affairs, and looked more like an intolerably abused martyr than any other member of the House when the list was finally read, though of course he considers it a personal slight, and will probably make many allusions to it during the present session. Shellebarger's appointment to the head of Commerce gives the House more satisfaction than that member himself, especially in view of the importance and arduousness of its labor and his own indifferent health. Lynch, the member from Maine, who now has served six years on the committee, feels just a little bit sore that his claims were overlooked, but the Claims Committee looms up as the first importance, in view of the vast amount of Southern business to come before it this winter, and Blairs's election as Chairman of this committee, both on account of his legal acuteness and honesty, is regarded as one of the best made. It was somewhat of an agreeable disappointment to Farnsworth that he was continued at the head of the Postoffice and Post Roads Committee. Shanks, as Chairman of Indian Affairs, in view of existing difficulties in this quarter, was also well received, and it is universally admitted that his appointment was one of the best that could be made. Everybody expected that Bingham would be continued at the head of the Judiciary Committee, and this appointment made up in satisfaction it what lacked in surprise. The Territorial delegates and those representing territories which are clamoring for admission, are more than pleased with the Territorial Committee. Hooper, of Utah, who had listened to the President's message with fear and trembling, and who had expected at least to hear sentence of excommunication pronounced against his people, backed up by the announcement of a Territorial Committee which would show no mercy, when the latter was announced went around to be congratulated that he and his people had a prospect for a peaceful solution of their difficulties, with the possibility also that Utah might be admitted into the Union as a State on a compromise which he himself has been authorized to suggest.

Report of the Chief Engineer

The report of the Chief Engineer this year fills over one thousand pages. Following are among the principal recommendations: Louisville canal for the fiscal year 1873, and which can profitably be expended, and which will complete the work, $300,000; Cumberland river below Nashville, $219,000; improving Illinois river, $150,000; improvement Rock Island Rapids, $100,000. The officer in charge of the Rock Island Bridge reports that the money already appropriated is sufficient for its completion. The officer in charge of the Des Moines Rapids asks for $1,000,000 to complete the canal, but the chief engineer says the details of this estimate have not arrived, and so no recommendation is made. The officer in charge of the improvement of the river makes the following estimates: For building dams above the falls, $144,500; for dam below the falls, $195,000.

New Public Building for Chicago.

Representative Farwell has prepared a bill relative to the burnt public building in Chicago, which he will offer in the House tomorrow. It provides for the purchase by the Secretary of the Treasury of that portion of the old Postoffice square not now owned by the Government, if it can be obtained at a reasonable price by private purchase or by condemnation. If it cannot be reasonably purchased, the Secretary will be authorized by the bill to select any other square within two squares of the old site. The bill limits the total cost of the ground and buildings subsequently to be erected to four million dollars, of which only two millions are at present appropriated. The new building is intended to contain all the Government offices.

The Estimates.

The following are the estimates for the fiscal year ending June, 1873: Legislative, executive and judicial, $24,949,000; military establishment, $31,423,000; naval, $8,946,000; Indians, $5,440,000; revisions, $30,180,000; public works, $19,469,000; pensions, $34,174,000; miscellaneous, $11,258,000; total, $301,705,000; total for 1872, $309,639,000, loss, $7,934,000.

Republican Senatorial Caucus.

The Republican caucus of the Senate will meet on Wednesday, to decide upon the committees. The Chairmanship of Private Land Claims will probably be given to a Democrat, so as to give members of that party a committee room for their exclusive use, and the Democrats will be asked to name one member for each committee.

Real and Personal Property in Ohio.

Col. Harrington, of the Census office, has prepared a statement showing the returns of real and personal property of Ohio. The assessed value of real estate is $707,846,836; assessed value of personal estate, $459,884,661. Of this Hamilton county has $98,000,000 real estate, and $68,000,000 personal.

Special Dispatch to the Commercial.

WASHINGTON, D. C., November 30, 1871.

Accounts of Disbursing Officers Overhauled.

The clerks in the Treasury Department have many of them been working all night for a week or two past, and the accounts of every disbursing officer of the government have been overhauled. This was ordered in consequence of the numerous defalcations that have recently been reported, and the object is to ascertain positively the correctness of every officer's accounts.

The Formal Case of Our Government

For presentation to the Geneva Conference has been completed, and its translation into French is also finished. It is understood among diplomats that England has prepared an argument for this Conference based upon an effort to show that the United States, in her treatment of Spain since our war, has, in encouraging and aiding the Cuban insurgents, been doing exactly what we are now arraigning England for.

Minister to Hakodadi.

John H. Hawes, of Iowa, has received his credentials as United States Minister to Hakodadi, Japan, and will leave this week for his post.

The Programme of the Democracy.

The Democratic members of Congress claim that Grant President is only the agent of Congress in carrying out the provisions of the Ku Klux bill, and that he had no right to suspend the writ of *habeas corpus* in South Carolina until the Southern investigation Committee had first officially reported and recommended that affairs warranted such extreme proceedings. On behalf of the Democratic portion of the Southern Committee, Mr. Beck, of Kentucky, will to-morrow endeavor to get in a resolution inquiring of the President under what provision of the law of April 19, 1871, he counsels the writ of *habeas corpus* to be suspended in South Carolina, and also calling for information, as to what acts of insubordination names of offenders and offences had been furnished him as regards these counties; also to furnish to Congress cases where there have been violations of State or National laws, obstructions to processes of courts, and also all other facts going to demonstrate that unlawful combinations or insurrections exist in any part of the country.

WASHINGTON, December 2.

INTERNAL REVENUE COMMISSIONER'S REPORT.

The report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue states that the aggregate receipts from all sources, exclusive of direct tax upon lands and duty upon circulation and deposits of national banks, were for the fiscal year 1871, $140,011,176. To this sum is to be added a refunded and allowed on drawbacks, amounting to $640,468. The Commissioner's estimate of receipts for the current fiscal year, under the present law, is $125,000,000. The receipts from spirits for the fiscal year amounted to $46,981,584. The amount of tax on fermented liquors, $7,159,749. Total receipts from tobacco for the year, $35,378,097, an increase of $2,250,000 over last year. The total amount of manufactured tobacco represented by stamps issued during the year, 105,963 pounds. Total number of cigars, cheroots, &c., on which taxes collected, 1,332,844,357. The increase is due to the present charges in the law, rendering the collecting these articles. The Commissioner favors consolidation of taxes for collection at eight cents, if it can be done without loss to the government, and expresses the opinion that the present system of export bonded warehouses can be entirely abolished to the interest both of the government and manufacturers. He recommends that Congress provide that evidence of the loss of tobacco be satisfactory to the Commissioner of Internal Revenue shall have all the force of a landing certificate for the purposes of drawback. The want of authority to formulate rules for carrying out the law is constantly accumulating in the hands of Government officers, has caused much embarrassment, and the Commissioner recommends that Congress authorize him, upon requisition of officers having custody and control of such tobacco, to furnish satisfactory evidence of the loss to be adopted and accepted before the same is offered for sale.

As it frequently happens that tax paid stamps are lost from packages of spirits by unavoidable accident without fault on the part of persons interested, spirits being thus exposed to detection and destruction, authority is asked for to protect such spirits by restamping.

Owing to Congressional omission to authorize the remission of taxes on shipbuilding, the law remains as first collected. He recommends that the Commissioner be prohibited from considering or allowing claims for taxes collected within two years from the time tax was paid, and that all claims be barred in the courts after six years from date of payment of tax.

The report concludes by stating that two hundred and thirty assistant Collectors are still upon the two hundred and fifteen of which have been placed in attorney's hands for suits against the bondsmen of the delinquents. The total amount of taxes compromised Revenue cases for this year was $818,437; total value of seizures, $1,076,240.

SUMMARY OF THE REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR.

The Secretary of War's report, the main facts relating to which were printed two weeks ago from the Bureau reports, shows that the army on January 1st had been reduced to 30,000. The expenditures for the year were about forty millions, including nearly four millions for river and harbor improvements. The estimate for military purposes for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1873, $32,415,472. The Treasury has realized from the sale of arms and other sources. An estimate of three millions is made for the settlement of claims yet due states for calling out militia service. The Secretary says that it is with great embarrassment that the appropriations of the last session can be recommended as to meet the pressing requirements of the Bankers. He recommends the extra lieutenants authorized by the act creating regimental quartermasters be discontinued as vacancies occur in those grades, effecting an intimate reduction of eighty lieutenants; that the grade of quartermaster sergeant be abolished, also, those of company wagoner, and artificer, which will save 1,166 enlisted men to the service at a yearly cost of $412,746. The proceeds of the sale of clothing from July 1st, 1870, to date, were $1,875,728. The cost of transportation for the year was about a million and a half. Southern railroads still owe the Department $4,794,259. The Secretary still alludes to the existence of armed rebellion of regular organization in the Southern and great sections of the Southern States, and the necessity of the use of the armed force of the nation to put it down and bring the leaders to speedy justice. General Belknap closes with renewed recommendation for afire-proof building for the Department, and the expression of the hope that a reform will be effected in all departments of the Government by the labors of the Civil Service Commission.

THE PUBLIC DEBT

Treasurer's Statement for November

Reduction During the Month, $3,462,080

WASHINGTON, December 1.—Following is a recapitulation of the statement of the public debt:

Debt bearing interest in coin—Bonds at 6 per cent	$1,577,325,130 00
Bonds at 5 per cent	277,965,700 00
Principal	$1,855,290,830 00
Interest	36,954,839 44
Debt bearing interest in lawful money—Certificates of indebtedness at 4 per cent	678,000 00
Navy pension fund at 5 per cent	14,000,000 00
Certificates at 3 per cent	25,490,000 00
Principal	$38,168,000 00
Interest	244,760 00
Debt on which interest has ceased since maturity—Principal	1,769,297 26
Interest	294,346 34
Debt bearing no interest—Old demand and legal tender notes	357,592,801 25
Fractional currency	40,106,026 05
Coin certificates	24,735,140 00
Treasury notes	422,696,977 39
Unclaimed interest	14,442 13
Total debt, principal	$2,317,123,184 56
Interest	37,508,387 39
Total	$2,354,631,571 45
Cash in Treasury—Coin	$96,556,84
Currency	10,123,589 76
Debt, less cash in Treasury December 1, 1871	2,248,251,367 85
Decrease during the month	3,462,080 18
Decrease since March 1, 1871	12,451,479 07
Decrease during the year ending March 1, 1871	204,754,413 09

Interest paid to Pacific railway companies, interest payable in lawful money, principal outstanding.. 64,618,832 00
Interest accrued and not paid.. 1,615,470 80
Interest paid by United States.. 12,092,475 41
Interest repaid by transportation of mails.. 3,317,907 44
Balance of interest paid by United States.. 9,374,567 97

CRIME.

A Little Girl Outraged and Murdered—Guilty Parties Killed while Attempting to Escape.

LITTLE ROCK, Arkansas, December 2. A horrible tragedy occurred on Mulberry creek, Franklin county, Sunday last. Richard Hill, a farmer, had in his employ as farm hands two young negro aged sixteen and eighteen years respectively, named Joseph Furbish and Wm. Chenoweth. They formed a plan to rob the house, and in order to carry out their schemes, after eating their dinner as usual Furbish went out to bring some wood. While doing so, a little four-year-old girl came out. Presently he picked up the child and started off with her towards Mulberry creek, where he was joined by Chenoweth. After proceeding some distance from the house they horribly outraged the little child, and to prevent her murdering her threw her into a deep pool of the creek. When the child was missed by its parents, the father and neighbors soon commenced a diligent search. It was at this time the murderers expected to rob the house, while all the men were absent. But Mrs. Hill remained at the house. After searching all night by the torch of the murdered child was found in the creek with the face broken and body horribly mutilated. Suspicion at once fell upon Furbish and Chenoweth, and they were arrested and lodged in jail at Ozark, Franklin county. While they were being taken to jail, on attempting to escape, they were both killed by the guard.

THE *Jahresbericht der Handelskammer fur den Kreis Essen* offers the following interesting figures relating to the stock on hand at the Krupp steel works, Prussia, for the year 1870: Smelting, heating and cementation furnaces, 514; welding, puddling and warming furnaces, 249; forges, 169; coke furnaces, 245; divers furnaces, 199; turning lathes, 120; planing machines, 194; boring machines, 114; grinding stones, 30; divers machines, 120; boilers, 159; steam engines, 256, with 8,377 horse power; power hammers, 29, with 3,961 cwt. The number of men employed was 7,100. The quantity of cast-steel produced amounted to 130,000,000 pounds. Among the steam engines was 1 of 4,000 hor-e power, 3 of 800, 1 of 500, 1 of 200, 1 of 180, 3 of 150, 1 of 130, 1 of 120, and 32 of inferior power. Among the power hammers, 1 of 600 cwt., 1 of 400, 1 of 200, 1 of 150, 1 of 140, 2 of 110, 3 of 100, and 46 of less weight. The manufactured articles consisted of axles, wheels and bands for railways, rails and springs for railroads and mines, axles for steamboats, divers parts of machinery, cylinders, steel for tools and cannon.

AMONG the plants of Guinea, one of the most curious is the cannon ball tree. It grows to the height of sixty feet, and its flowers are remarkable for beauty and fragrance, and contradictory qualities. Its blossoms are of a delicious crimson, appearing in large bunches, and exhaling a heavy perfume. The fruit resembles enormous cannon balls, hence the name. However, some say it has been so called because of the noise which the ball makes in bursting. From the shell domestic utensils are made, and the contents contain several kinds of acids, besides sugar and gum, and furnish the material for making an excellent drink in sickness. But, singular as it may appear, this pulp, when in a perfectly ripe state, is very filthy, and the odor from it is exceedingly unpleasant.

GOVERNOR WARMOTH has called an extra session of the Legislature of Louisiana to fill the vacancy occasioned by the death of the late Lieutenant Governor Oscar J. Dunn. It is expected that Warmoth men will be chosen to fill the vacant places. As the regular session of the Legislature commences in January, the calling of an extraordinary session so short a time in advance is generally considered unwise and unnecessary.

REPORT

OF THE

Secretary of the Treasury.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT, December 4, 1871.

REDUCTION OF THE DEBT.

SIR: The country has been prosperous during the year now closing, and the public finances have shared in the general prosperity. During the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1871, the reduction of the public debt was $94,227,764 84. The total decrease in the public debt from March 1st, 1869, to December 1st, 1871, was $277,407,992 07; and during the same period the annual interest has been reduced $16,741,436 04.

A REDUCTION OF TAXES PRACTICABLE AND ADVISABLE.

The revenue for the year 1871, and the receipts since the 1st of July last, show that the time has arrived when a considerable further reduction in taxation can be made, and yet leave the Government in a position to pay $60,000,000 annually of the principal debt, including the amount pledged through the sinking fund.

In my annual report to Congress for 1870, I expressed the opinion that the settled policy of the country should contemplate a revenue sufficient to meet the ordinary expenses of the Government, pay the interest on the public debt, and from twenty-five to fifty millions of dollars of the principal annually. To that opinion I adhere, and even a stronger conviction that the latter sum annua ly upon the principal of the public debt should not be less than fifty millions of dollars. Large as the reductions of the public debt have been during the last three years, our system of taxation has not been oppressive to individuals, nor has it in any sensible degree embarrassed the business of the country; and while relief from taxation is desirable, it is more desirable to maintain the public credit in its present elevated position, not only as an example to other nations, but for its historical value, in enabling the Government to make and transfer large amounts upon favorable terms, if, unhappily in the future, an emergency should require such loans to be made. The power to negotiate a large loan at five per cents., and enter upon negotiations for the sale of bonds bearing five, four and a half and four per cent. interest, is derived entirely from the exhibition of an honest purpose on the part of the people to maintain the public faith, and on the part of the Government by large and frequent payments upon the public debt.

THE REVENUE FROM CUSTOMS.

The revenue from customs for the year 1871 was greatly in excess of the estimates, amounting to $206,270,408 05: against $194,538,374 44 for the preceding year. The cost of collecting this revenue was $5,609,622 61 for 1871, being 3.11 per cent., while the cost for the year 1870 was $6,237,137 25, or 3.20 per cent. The appropriations for the collection of customs, with the additional deficiencies, fines, penalties and for failures, exceeded the expenditures by $1,458,000, leaving more than $800,000, and there is no doubt that the permanent appropriation will be ample for the present year and for the next fiscal year. The fact that while the rates of duty to the first of January, 1871, under the act of July 14, 1870, diminished in fact very fully of many articles during the last six months of the year 1870; but there was consequently a large addition to the revenues for the first six months of the year 1871. A comparison of the first six months of the calendar year 1870 shows an increase of fifty-five per cent. in the quantity of tea imported; twenty per cent. in the quantity of coffee; fifty-three per cent. in the quantity of brown sugar; one hundred and twenty per cent. in the quantity of grain and flour; one hundred and sixty six per cent. in the quantity of melado; one hundred and thirty-nine per cent. in the quantity of spices, and a large increase in many other articles. The probabilities are that the customs revenue for the current year will exceed that for the year 1870 and 1871.

INTERNAL REVENUE.

The receipts from internal revenue were $143,098,153 63, being $4,048,984 37 less than the estimates presented to Congress in December last for the fiscal year ended June 30th, 1871. The estimates for the current fiscal year were $150,000,000; and it is probable that the receipts will be equal to the estimates.

NET RECEIPTS AND EXPENDITURES.

The net receipts for the fiscal year ending June 30th, 1871, are as follows:

From Customs	$206,270,408 05
From Internal Revenue	143,098,153 63
From sales of public lands	2,348,632 74
From miscellaneous sources	31,056,736 53
Total	$382,329,944 39

The estimate of expenditures for the same period were:

For civil and miscellaneous purposes	$39,498,710 91
For the War Department	35,799,991 82
For the Navy Department	21,785,000 00

This sum is larger than that allowed for the fiscal year 1870, on account of the adjudication of old claims for drawbacks on cotton goods rendered admissable by joint resolution No. 78, approved July 14, 1870. These was refunded during the past fiscal year for taxes illegally assessed and collected the sum of $617,581. This large increase over the year preceding was due to the adjustment of claims that had been suspended during former years for more complete consideration; for instance, the claim of one of the States which was embraced in the above aggregate, and amounting to $45,866 for taxes collected on dividends declared upon stock owned by the State. This was the largest claim ever allowed by the bureau, and was referred to the Attorney General for his advice.

The Commissioner's estimate of receipts for the current fiscal year, under the present law, is $125,000,000.

The number of distilleries (other than fruit) registered during the last fiscal year was 5,048. The number of rum distilleries registered was 1,146. The total number of distilleries registered was 8,192. Of the distilleries (other than fruit) 637 were operated during the year; and of the fruit distilleries, 4,097. The returns to this office for the last fiscal year show a total production in taxable gallons, from material (other than fruit, of 54,316,446; and from fruit, 2,196,736; total yearly production, 56,716,182. The total quantity of spirits in the bonded warehouses on the 1st of May, 1871, was 41,185,752 proof gallons, showing a decrease in quantity on market since November 15, 1870, of 4,-468,586 gallons. The receipts from spirits for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1871, were $46,281,548. The amount of tax received for fermented liquors at $1 a barrel was, in 1871, $7,159,749. The increase over former years is believed to be due, in part at least, to the greater activity in collection in subject to internal revenue officers during that year. This attention has revealed some defects in the law which call for early legislative action.

The total receipts from tobacco for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1871, were $35,378,097 32. As compared with the receipts from the same source for the preceding year, the increase is $2,226,689. The total amount of manufactured tobacco represented by the amount of collections for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1871, was 105,963,000 pounds; sumk, 57,656 pounds; cavendish, 64,617,864 pounds; smoking, 37,288,523 pounds; fine cut chewing, 16 pounds; 39,-517,656 pounds. Add to this the quantity exported—16,621,662 pounds—and the excess remaining in warehouses on the 1st of July, 1870, 2,827,400 pounds, making a total product for the year of 105,828,958 pounds. The number of cigars, cheroots, &c., on which taxes were collected was 1,332,844,357.

The steady and uniform increase from month to month in the revenue from cigars, cheroots, cigarettes, snuff cigars, &c., since the present law went into operation, is due, in part, to the system of affixing taxes on these articles was changed from ad valorem to that after removal from the manufacturing and sale to a prepaid part of the tax. Under the present system the goods are removed from the place of manufacture, in the presence of the supervisors of the district, with the stamps affixed, and the goods are not again disturbed by the manufacturer, but are delivered under such circumstances as to leave no doubt that the whole business will be concluded in a brief period of time.

By the act establishing the National Banking system, the duty of receiving the circulation offered to make them depositories of any public money, except receipts from customs; and the act authorizing the issue of the circulation of the Secretary of the Treasury to give three months' notice of the payment of any deposit, or in such notice might be waived and called for payment. In the same act it was provided that the money received for the circulation should be paid into the Treasury the first of August last the demand for the new bonds had nearly ceased; but by the agreement referred to the circulation will be held by the Government incident to the refunding of the public debt, and will be returned to the banks with subscriptions to the amount of about one hundred and thirty millions of dollars. The banks, or those representing the circulation, derived the advantage of the use of the amount of their subscriptions for three months, which is estimated at $2,000,000, a sum greater than what was incident to the negotiation of the loan under the law.

COMMISSIONERS ADVISED.

I am informed by Judge Richardson, and such is my opinion, that the most serious obstacle in the way of negotiating the four and four and a half per cent. bonds in Europe, the five-class steamship tax was also allowed. When the circular of the 25th of February last was issued, many of the foreign bankers declined to act as agents, and I am persuaded that others who accepted the agency failed to give that attention to the business which would have been bestowed upon it had the commissions corresponded more fully with those paid by the Government in the negotiation of a public loan. The credit of the country is fully established in every financial center in Europe, and from time to time bonds of the United States can be negotiated at home and abroad upon such favorable terms as will desire to return to the States as often as once in two years, and moreover it is wise for the Government to have not less than four persons in the employment connected with the care of the people and the business of the islands. Mr. Bryant also makes suggestions as to further provision for the care of the natives, which appear to me to deserve consideration.

INCREASE OF SALARIES OF BUREAU OFFICERS.

I again call the attention of Congress to the importance of increasing the salaries of the bureau officers and heads of divisions in the Secretary's office. At present there is great inequality and injustice existing. The Chief Clerk and Comptroller receive $3,000 a year, while the Second Comptroller and other bureau officers receive but little more than half that sum. Under the present law the Secretary is authorized to appoint only five clerks at $2,000 a year. Although for several years an appropriation has been made from which the Secretary of the Treasury, in his discretion, has increased the salaries in his own office to $2,800 and $2,500, the increase is comparatively unimportant, for the reason that the bond of a division in charge of the loans or warrants of the Department is considered a responsible position in which the country and the world are more concerned than in that of the collector of customs in New York.

The latter receives more than $50,000 a year, while it is with difficulty that the Secretary is able to secure the inadequate sum of $2,800. The same remark might, with truth, be made of several bureau officers, and of the heads of divisions in the Treasury of the United States. In this connection I also call attention to the salary of the Surgeon and Supervising Surgeon of the Marine Hospitals, which is entirely inadequate to the services required of them, and is not in proportion to the salaries of officers who, by virtue of his office, is supposed to be informed on the subject, and on whom the Secretary of the Treasury can officially rely for information or advice in the management of this important branch of the public business.

OUR INTERNAL COMMERCE.

It is estimated that the internal commerce of the country is fifteen times as great as our external commerce, but the statistics are not tolerably complete, and I respectfully recommend that provision be made for obtaining such returns as will show fully the trade of the country upon those diverse rivers, canals, lakes and railways.

FUR SEAL FISHERIES.

The report of Mr. Charles Bryant, special agent, who has charge of the fur seal fisheries at the island of St. Paul and St. George, shows that the business has been conducted by the Alaska Commercial Company in substantial uniformity to the terms of the contract. Mr. Bryant suggests an appropriation for the construction of a house upon each island for the accommodation of the government, who shall at present reside upon the islands during the seal season. He also suggests the erection of a building suited to the wants of a first class city physician, and the purchase of a larger parcel of land should be obtained, either by an exchange for the present lot or by the purchase of another site. In the latter event he thinks that the lot upon which Governor Ramsey, asking him to recommend to the Legislature of Minnesota the cession of jurisdiction to the Courts of the State of Illinois to condemn such land as might be required in case the government should be unable to purchase the same at a reasonable price, payment to be made upon an appraisement. In the event of a building being erected by the government for public purposes it should be large enough to separate therefrom all other matters, thus furnishing additional light for the prosecution of business, and adequate protection against fire and other contingencies of lawless persons. It is hardly necessary to say that in the existing condition of affairs at Chicago, it is important that the Government should have at the present fiscal year should be made without unnecessary delay. Nicholas Bart annual report the superintending architect has completed the custom house, Court House and Postoffice at Portland, Me.; the custom House and Postoffice at Burlington, Vt.; the Court House and Postoffice at Madison, Wis.; the Marine Hospital, Surgeon's store and Quarantine office at Baton Rouge, La.; the Custom House and Postoffice at Omaha, Nebraska. The prosecution of those works, four of which are of great importance in connection with public buildings at Chicago, Ill., and the erection of marine hospitals at Pittsburgh, San Francisco and Chicago, Ill., are, in my opinion, sufficiently occupy the supervising architect's entire attention and the force at his command. I cannot, therefore, recommend the commencement of any public work until some of those in process of construction shall have been completed. The points at which

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, December 9, 1871.

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1871.

THE ELECTION TUESDAY.

The municipal contest Tuesday resulted in the election of JAMES BLACKMORE, Independent Democrat, Mayor by about 1,200 majority; CHRISTOPHER MAGEE, Republican, Treasurer by about 1,000 majority, and ROBERT J. MAGOWAN, Republican, without opposition. The City Councils will as usual be largely Republican in both branches.

THE comfort which the cotton traders will be able to derive from the Message of the President and Report of the Secretary of the Treasury, will be small, indeed. Nor will Congress be likely to increase it. The policy recommended in these important communications, embodied in discreet legislation, will insure the permanency of American interests. Gen. GRANT's administration is firmly committed to a distinctive American policy, and will receive the hearty support of the American people.

GENERAL GRANT's message is everywhere received with favor. In England, a cable synopsis produced a favorable impression, which extends to the whole of Europe. The financial exhibit of the Secretary of the Treasury, taken in connection with his recommendations and those of the President, of a reduction of taxation and a less rapid payment of the national debt, and the unequaled prosperity of the country, are all encouraging at home and abroad. Now let Congress act wisely and promptly.

THE support which Postmaster General CRESSWELL's recommendation of the postal telegraph system receives from General GRANT, is not the least gratifying feature of the Message. This measure is making rapid progress in public estimation in this country, and is destined to be adopted. Much is due to Postmaster General CRESSWELL for giving the subject so much attention, and for the unqualified and earnest manner in which he gives the measure his approval. It may be that Congress is not prepared to act at once up to the line of this recommendation, but few things are more certain than that the postal telegraph system is destined to be adopted in this country and prove a great triumph. Once adopted it will never be abandoned.

HOW THOROUGHLY these fellows understand one another. "Early in the session," said the New York *World* of Monday, "a resolution will be introduced in the House calling upon President GRANT to declare under what section of the Ku-Klux act he suspended the writ of habeas corpus in South Carolina," and on the very day thereafter, almost before the organization of the two bodies had been effected, or the last words of the President's Message had died away, Senator BLAIR in the Senate and Representative BECK in the House, leaped to their feet in unseemly haste, each with a similar resolution in his hand and the same language in his mouth. There should be—there will be—the largest liberty of discussion allowed on all these matters, but this swift concerted rush of the Democratic leaders to the rescue of the law-breakers of the South will not commend itself to the plain people of the country, nor help the "passive policy" in the least.

THE Acting Commissioner of Internal Revenue will, it is said, soon issue a circular letter to assessors and collectors of internal revenue and ex-officio assessors, instructing them that they be able to count of tobacco shipped in bond from one district to be sold in another. In this letter Mr. Douglas will propose a plan of settlement, and refer to the following paragraph of the internal revenue law: "In calculating the commissions of assessors and collectors of internal revenue in districts whence tobacco is shipped in bond to be sold in another district, one-half the amount of tax received on the quantity of tobacco so shipped shall be added to the amount on which the commissions of such assessors and collectors are calculated, and a corresponding amount on which the commissions of the assessors and collectors of the districts to which such tobacco is shipped is calculated."

WASHINGTON department officials state that they have not experienced so quiet a time on the assembling of Congress for many years. Although there have been in Washington for a week past a large number of Senators and Representatives, their visits to the departments were few and far between, and the opportunities for places for their constituents unfrequent. It is the general opinion in official circles that this unusual hesitancy in seeking office is caused by the desire to avoid the stringent examination which it is feared will be instituted upon the applicant, in accordance with the rules laid down by the Civil Service Commission.

THE Rev. G. D. Pike, in the *Congregationalist*, gives the Chinese shoemakers at North Adams, Mass., a good character: There is not a single opium eater among them, he says, and but seven out of the seventy-four need the evangelizing labors of Brother Trask. They used to gamble a little at first, but now they devote their evenings to study. "They gladly spend their earnings for books and teachers," continues the Rev. Pike, paying as cheerfully for these as for any other valuable thing. I saw five of them with Second Readers at once in a large learning their lessons by means of a lexicon containing English words with their meaning in Chinese."

REFERRING to General GRANT's views on the tariff question, the New York *Herald* says: "It joins issue so fairly and squarely with the free-traders that they will now be compelled to define their position in Congress and throughout the country. It challenges the Democratic and free-trade Republicans to take the opposite ground of free trade, and it is the only issue upon which is offered them that complete antagonism which is the very life of a political party on or power against the party in possession of the government."

A MEETING of the Peace Society of Pennsylvania was held in Montgomery county last Friday, at which the peace policy of President GRANT was indorsed, and appeals made for its enlargement. The treaty of Washington was commended, and the work of the War Department in foretelling the state of weather was approved, as tending to make it more useful to the farmer and community generally than in the crime of war.

THE New York *Herald* has found out how General Grant can elect himself without opposition: Come out for the immediate annexation of Mexico and plant himself on the issue. Why stop with Mexico on the south, with Canada so near to us on the north? And then there are Cuba and the rest of the Islands. The *Herald* should not contract its platform while its head is in.

GENERAL AND PARTICULAR.

It is stated upon high authority that the Secretary of War proposes to ask Congress to increase the army of the United States to somewhere near its standing previous to the late reduction. As this reduction was made by Congress without the recommendations of either the President or Secretary of War, their opinion for an increase will undoubtedly be given due consideration. Whether that body at the time anticipated the condition of things in the country which has occurred since their last session, is not certain, but the facts which will be presented to them in order to warrant this increase are: that the United States troops are now occupied in executing the Ku-Klux law, suppressing Indian hostilities, and preserving the peace, while the law is also being executed in breaking up the system of polygamy in Utah.

In view of the proposition for reviving the Joint Select Committee on Retrenchment, the question of its chairman is beginning to be agitated. Senator Schurz is spoken of for the position, by ing the first Senator to suggest its revival last session, when the proposition was defeated on account of the Senate resolution to transact no business but the Ku-Klux bill. Schurz has never held any chairmanship, and probably desires this or none.

Notwithstanding their diversity of views on other subjects relating to the finances of the country, there is no difference of opinion in the Senate Finance Committee as to the summary abolition of the income tax. They all agree to sweep away all internal revenue tax, except on whisky, beer, tobacco and stamps. There is said also to be a disposition to overthrow the sinecures and abolish the perquisites which have become a burden on commerce for the benefit of a few place-holders.

After the feast comes the paying of the piper. There is said to be a good deal of quaking in the Brooklyn navy yard over the report that a resolution will be introduced into Congress on the first days of the session, authorizing a committee of three to make inquires into these two points: First, Who paid the two or three hundred laborers who have been engaged in making preparations for the Grand Duke's ball? Second, How much of the property of the United States Government was used to give the entertainment? and how much of it will have to be condemned, now that the ball is over? The Navy Department, it is hinted, will assist in the investigation.

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A remarkable missionary expedition sailed from New York last Thursday for Equador. The party consisted of six of the graduates of the Catholic Protectory at Westchester—a carpenter, a blacksmith, a machinist, an engineer, and a shoemaker, and is under the direction of *Brother Tobias*, of the same institution. The intent being to teach the natives of that country the mechanical arts and farming. All religionists may learn from the admirable missionary plans of the church under whose auspices these apostles of civilization sail.

The fixedness of Jewish customs and character dates is a matter of history, and any change would seem to be a breaking from old landmarks that is difficult to accomplish. Nevertheless, under the influence of American ideas, action has been taken, looking to changes of great importance, and seems to place the eventual abolition of the Sabbath at least a considerable number of the German Jews residing in this country beyond a doubt. The change has come from the Israelites themselves, and is marked by a peculiar softening of strong national characteristics. Some of the most intelligent Jews of New York have subscribed money for the purpose of translating the principal works of Hebrew literature into the English language. The works to be translated are not exclusively in the Hebrew language, but many of them being in German. The last conference of Jewish rabbis in Philadelphia resolved that in future be in English instead of German. Although doubtless to many Jews of German origin, Germany is still reverred as the Mecca of learning, this edition of the Bible will doubtless be acceptable.

"Resurgam." The new Chicago Chamber of Commerce will surpass its predecessor in all respects. It will have a frontage of one hundred and eighty-one feet seven inches on La Salle street, and ninety-three feet on Washington street, and will be three stories in height, eighty-seven feet, the upper floor to be used by the Board of Trade, a spacious hall forty-five feet high being designed for the use of the body. The structure will be Buena Vista freestone, and on the Italian style of architecture. The tota cost is fixed at $300,000.

The following rule for estimating the colorific effects of a given sample of oil, although it makes the threeotic amount a little larger than that found in practice, is near enough to ascertain the relative values of oils as fuel. First, the amount of carbon, hydrogen and oxygen contained in the sample is found by analysis. Second, subtract from the hydrogen one-eighth of the oxygen, then multiply the difference by 344.83, and to the product the total quantity of carbon multiplied by 80.8, and this sum will be the number of heat units in one kilogram.

The policy of retrenchment and economy determined upon by the Republicans of Louisiana will, we trust, soon place the finances of that State in a better condition than that described by a special correspondent of the New York *Times* a few days ago. He says "New Orleans is fast losing its prestige and position owing to the enormous and rapidly growing debt, a falling off of business, and an oppressive license system. I hear on all sides the cry of despondency. Real estate cannot be sold for 50 per cent. of its actual value, and prominent land and property holders say that if they could sell for one-half of the estimated value of their possessions they would sell out and leave this tax-burdened State. The debt of both State and city is increasing."

In a recent letter to his paper from the West, Mr. Samuel Bowles, editor of the Springfield *Republican*, exposes a number of the tricks of the Indian contractors and speculators in the Sioux country, in connection with the supplies for the troops. He shows, for instance, that they have frequently turned in small Texas steers and cows, weighing 600 to 800 pounds each, at 1,600 pounds each to the Government for the Indians, and then stolen them back again, without the transaction being known for have been sold over and over to the same old blind gentleman whom we conveniently call "Uncle Sam." And these are but samples of the frauds which are being constantly perpetrated. Mr. Bowles thinks that the head of the Indian Bureau should be required to spend half of his time "in the field," and believes that if such a course should be pursued, order might be brought out of chaos and honesty out of corruption.

It seems to be generally understood that the President's Message will not be brought to public light this year until the two committees appointed by each house of Congress wait upon the President for the purpose of informing that Congress has assembled and is ready to receive any communication which he may have to lay before them. Little or no pressure has therefore been brought to secure it, although the message is finished. The President, anticipating the great public interest to obtain a copy, has the copies of it locked up in a drawer in his own room, so that any effort to secure it through any of the President's household will prove futile.

A phenomenon has occurred in Indianapolis. It is well, the water of which has been of a remarkable coldness, has been growing warmer, and is now almost hot. The inference is that the city is growing worse and worse, and consequently the infernal regions are approaching it underground.

It is said in the Hartford *Courant* that the three insurance companies in that city which have survived the Chicago fire and are still doing business, have received for premiums during the month of October almost double the amount obtained in October, 1870, by all the insurance companies, nine in number, then doing business in Hartford. There has been an increase in the rates of premiums, averaging about twenty-five per cent.

A woman named Florence Cooper, the story of whose life reads like a romance, was sentenced to penal servitude for five years, in England, the other day. She is the daughter of a gardener, and when a girl was a domestic servant. When she became a young woman a nobleman placed her in a school in the name of Miss Bayliss, and it was given out that she was presented at court, and then married to a gentleman named Baylis, who was worth a hundred thousand dollars. They lived unhappily together, and ultimately Mr. Baylis obtained a divorce. Some time after Mr. Baylis died, and a Mr. Cooper, said to be connected with some of the first families in the kingdom, and who was co-respondent in the divorce suit, married her. He had a large fortune, but it was soon squandered, and he died in a lunatic asylum. She has gone about plundering tradesmen, and representing herself to be connected with noble families, and is now the occupant of a felon's cell.

Contrary to the popular opinion that London is a vast sink of iniquity, statistics show that be the most moral town in Great Britain, its habitual and suspected criminals being as one in 784, while in such towns as Bath, Leamington, Scarborough, and Ramsgate the proportion is one in 227, and in what is classed as agricultural towns, it is one in 433. In the eastern, midland and southern counties, the number of criminals is usually twice, and occasionally four times as great as in London. The rural villages are usually considered the homes of ideal purity and piety, yet, in comparison with them, London is twice as innocent, twice as healthy, and about four hundred times as charitable. This superiority in aims giving seems to indicate a corresponding extent of superiority, but inconclusive, it is to be remembered, is more thoroughly systematized in London, while in the country there may be a great deal of want and suffering with very inadequate relief.

Representatives from the various mining districts of Great Britain held a conference in Manchester last week. The President of the National Association, in his opening address, characterized the whole system of inspection of mines as a deliberate and willful farce, and urged that the conference should insist upon having certified managers in mines, that all mine-owners should be compelled to register the state of their mines every morning, and that efficient inspectors should be appointed. The "inspection of pits" was discussed at great length, and before the adjournment the conference decided to memorialise the Government to bring forward a Mines Regulation bill early next session.

The colonists at New Sweden, Maine, retain in the main the costume of their native country. The dress of the men and boys resembles the costumes worn by our grandfathers, while the women and girls wear a plain, straight dress with short sleeves, a narrow apron, and upon the head a silk handkerchief folded and tied under the chin, and looking very odd, but pretty and comfortable. Both wear the national wooden shoes, with high heels and turned-up toes. The gold lace and silk aprons are dressed exactly like father and mother, and in the demure costume look like dwarfed editions of manhood and womanhood.

The Column Vendome has been put together, with the exception of a part which commemorates the victories over the Prussians. The efforts of the police to find those portions have utterly failed. The responsibility of this statement rests with the Paris paper *La Presse*, which adds that the column will be replaced upon its pedestal to-day.

Secretary Boutwell writes to a Government officer in this city concerning inquiries from a prominent shipper at Cincinnati, that where the transportation of petroleum involves general transfers, and in consequence much delay and great expense, the route may be considered "impracticable," and the articles shipped by passenger lines instead of freight lines.

"Honesty is the best policy." The following figures show how the commerce of New York has been injured by the malpractices of the Tammany Ring, during the past ten years. Within that period the grain trade has been reduced from 85 per cent of that of the whole West to 50 (1869) less than the of four of the small lake cities. The tonnage of the Erie canal has fallen off over 18,000 tons; while the of the Central has increased only 13 3-5 per cent from 1864 to 1868, instead of at the rate of 112 per cent. for the five years previous. There has been no diversion of trade from the canal to the railways, but an actual loss. The shipping tonnage of the port for 1868 was 155,000 tons less than in 1855, and the total decrease of tonnage entered and cleared from 1869 to 1870 was 926,164 tons. This falling off is equivalent to the whole tonnage twenty years ago. The increase of population from 1860 to 1870 has been only 13.3 per cent. against 60 per cent. during the previous decade.

The English newspapers are very justly denouncing the telegraphic roorbacks perpetrated upon themselves and the press of this country. One was recently foisted upon the English press announcing an amalgamation of the leading railroad lines in England, which, for a time, considerably disturbed operations in the share market, and deceived dealers. Investigation proved it to be a forgery, designed for stock operations. To check these scandalous practices it is suggested that all news dispatches should undergo special registration at the telegraphic offices where they are received, and that the parties transmitting them be required to give a guarantee of their good faith.

The sudden access of winter threatens to close the canals unexpectedly. It is reported that about 3,000,000 bushels of grain are in danger of being frozen in, besides large shipments of potatoes and apples.

That venerable religious organ, the *Churchman*, has been guilty of literary piracy. Its leading article of last week contained the following passage: "The Brahmins educate their sons so that they shall infallibly become Brahmins; the Jews, so that they shall become Jews; the Mohammedans, so that they shall be Mohammedans; but the Christians educate their sons so that nearly half of them turn out unbelievers—professors of no religion at all." This entire sentence is copied, verbatim from Mrs. Stowe's new "Wife," until young and handsome. The elder lady wore a rich white satin opera cloak, suitable for Mrs. Fair herself, it would have been white silk fringe, which she threw aside as she entered her box. The dress was of black Lyons velvet, cut low and square, with long coat sleeves and a train. The ornaments were a square, deep collar and cuffs of old point lace, the collar outlining the low neck of the dress, and having a ruffle above and a plain dress lace below, a diamond cross and necklace and ear rings. No handkerchief.

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A NEW method of sewerage, known as the pneumatic system, in which air is the motive power, is at present attracting a good deal of attention. The plan is to divide a city into complexes and sub-com. plexes, a sub-complex consisting of about 200 houses, and a complex comprising all the sub-complexes within a radius of 2,500 feet. Each complex has a large air-tight cast-iron reservoir, and each subcomplex a smaller one connecting with the main reservoir and with the houses. Every house is provided with valves and cocks, by which a circulation of air may be prevented. The air inside is exhausted by machinery, and the end cannot be sent at less than letter rates, *i. e.*, six cents for each ounce, and three cents for the half ounce.

The Probate Court of Cincinnati has just decided that an attorney cannot receive compensation for partial or unfinished services; that he must go through with a case once undertaken, or surrender all pecuniary claims against his client. Also that he cannot, without the consent of his client, transfer to another attorney a case intrusted to him.

The Cincinnati *Price Current* is of the opinion that the time is at hand when the curing of pork must be continued throughout the year by the ice process instead of confining the business mainly to winter curing, in order to be profitable and to avoid the great expense and risk of holding large stocks of winter cured for summer use.

The Toronto Board of Trade has recently issued a circular to the merchants of Canada, the object of which is to urge upon all business men the duty and necessity of insuring their property against fire, not only as a safeguard to their own interest, but also as a measure of protection to their creditors. Several instances are cited in which debtors paid only from twenty-five to fifty cents on the dollar, when a policy of insurance would have enabled them to meet all their engagements.

The Territorial Legislature of Columbia proposes to ask Congress to give the citizens of the District the right to elect one or more electors of President and Vice-President of the United States.

The Oregon *Bulletin* says it understands that General Palmer has done away with all modes of punishment at the Siletz Reservation, and governs his Indians solely by moral suasion.

New York is certainly to be pitied. The smallpox is increasing in that city at an alarming rate, while at a meeting of the Brooklyn Board of Health, last Saturday, the Health Officer stated that there was danger of the disease becoming epidemic in that city also. Vaccination had been discontinued owing to a lack of funds, and twenty assistants employed for that purpose had been discharged.

PERSONAL.

Here is a beautiful instance of conjugal affection. A married lady in Connecticut recently fell to a river, and would have been drowned except that her cries attracted the attention of her husband, who, mistaking her in the dark for another woman, worked like a beaver to get her out.

The following notice was recently posted up by a disgusted husband of that neighborhood, in the postoffice of a Vermont village: "My wife, Mary Miller, having deceived me in regard to her age, before marrying, claiming to be twenty only, when she was thirty-two, with teeth badly decayed, while I am not twenty-two, with perfect sound teeth, hereafter, I will take no debts of her contracting." Spite of the decayed teeth of the wife, it is evident that the husband was badly bitten.

Tennyson has quit the Isle of Wight in disgust and removed to a secluded spot in North Wales. He is tired of being haunted by literary lion hunters, not the least persistent and annoying of whom are said to be American travelers.

Rev. Green Clay Smith, formerly a State Governor and General in the army, is carrying on a protracted meeting in the Baptist community of Danville, Ky.

Hon. Mrs. Norton and Mrs. Henry Wood, two English authors, are tearing each other's literary hair. Mrs. Norton charges Mrs. Wood with having stolen the plot of "East Lynne" from a story printed years ago by Mrs. Norton in a magazine. Mrs. Wood replies that she never saw any such story, and that Mrs. Norton carefully avoids telling where it can be found.

The latest testimony to the excellence of Horace Greeley's chirography is as follows: Many years ago, it is said, he wrote to a female contributor requesting her to abstain from flourishes. A couple of friends inspected the letter and finally pronounced it an offer of marriage. Hence Mrs. Greeley and the junior Greeley.

The new Senator from Georgia, Mr. Norwood, is credited with saying that "speech-making, letter-writing and newspaper articles are the bane of the South," and announcing his intention to avoid these faults.

It is said that Mrs. Laura D. Fair has dramatized Owen Meredith's "Lucille," by way of relieving the tedium of confinement under the death sentence. Of what offense has the gentle heroine of the piece been guilty, that she should be butchered in such a way? While not for Mrs. Fair herself, it would have been white satin fringe, which she threw aside as she entered her box. The dress was of black Lyons velvet, cut low and square, with long coat sleeves and a train. The ornaments were a square, deep collar and cuffs of old point lace, the collar outlining the low neck of the dress, and having a ruffle above and a plain dress lace below, a diamond cross and necklace and ear rings. No handkerchief.

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Victor Hugo neglects no opportunity or occasion, however slight or remote, of venting his astonishing utterances. Thus he has adorned Gambetta's marriage by characterizing it as "the union of a comet and a fixed star."

An "official organ" is generally considered to be an engine of unusual power and influence. This opinion, however, is not always a safe one. A little light has recently been thrown on the affairs of the Austrian *Journal*, which was the organ of Count Hohenwart during his incumbency as premier of the Cis Leithan division of the Austro-Hungarian monarchy. It died with the ministry whose cause it represented, having enjoyed a circulation of ninety-two copies. The distribution of these copies is another surprise, even to those who knew what a weakling it was. Twenty-two went to Hanover, long ago incorporated with Germany. Fifty-six were sent to other journals in exchange. Nine were sent to Wurtemberg, also a part of the German empire. Of the five remaining copies, four were subscribed for by Austrians, and the other was sent to Prince Bismarck, whose subscription expired the 31st of October, which was within a day or two of the date of the "organ's" death.

FASHIONS FOR DECEMBER.

Winter, Its Galties and Festivities—The Gift Season—A Grand Reception and Floral Birthday—Feathers and Furs, Etc.

[From Our Own Correspondent.]

Winter fashions for several years past might just as well have been designed for spring, autumn, or even summer. In fact they come to us after being used up in the later seasons abroad, and were simply "adapted" by being put into thicker fabrics than the original garments.

We are not much better off this season so far as imported designs are concerned. We have still the short jackets, the small, slashed paletots, made heavy without warmth by thick, ornamental embroidery, and in addition the polonaise, which has been made to serve every possible in and out-door use since it was invented. There is a comfort this season, however, which we have not always had, in an appearance at least of warmth. Woolen fabrics, warmer colors, and the many and various uses to which fur is put, render the general aspect of ladies dressed for a winter promenade more appropriate, and, therefore, more becoming and attractive, for nothing kills an ugly dress so effectually than cold and a sense of discomfort.

THE OPERA SEASON

has so far been more successful than any we have had for the past ten years. It has revived the old traditions of the "full dress" night of the Academy, when ladies wore invariable trains and stomachers, and gentlemen did not venture into the presence of ladies without white kids, pumps and dress-coat.

The spectacle on a "night" is best seen from the boxes forming the upper tier, and it is really worth while to endure the heat, and close, stuffy atmosphere occasionally for the sake of seeing the gorgeous display around and below. Dress is no longer hedged hair; much less false hair worn than last season, and few elaborate head-dresses are to be seen, but the toilettes are often magnificent, and in fact, must be, to be distinguished in a crowd where all are more or less elegantly dressed. Among the number that attracted attention recently were a mother and daughter, the former still young and handsome. The elder lady wore a rich white satin opera cloak, suitable for Mrs. Fair herself, it would have been white silk fringe, which she threw aside as she entered her box. The dress was of black Lyons velvet, cut low and square, with long coat sleeves and a train. The ornaments were a square, deep collar and cuffs of old point lace, the collar outlining the low neck of the dress, and having a ruffle above and a plain dress lace below, a diamond cross and necklace and ear rings. No handkerchief.

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UNDER the caption of "The wreck and robbery of the Golden Rule," the New York *Sun* again recurs to the subject of the wreck on Honcanor Reef in the Caribbean Sea, in 1857, by which the ship was lost, and reiterates its belief that the vessel was purposely wrecked in order to cover up the loss of something over a million of dollars in United States Treasury notes, which, it is said, were at that time contained on board in a Government safe, and which, the *Sun* claims, was stolen either before the vessel left New York, or at some period during the voyage. Judging from the animus which appears to have inspired the *Sun* in its various references to this subject, it is to be feared that on our contemporary rests the responsibility of wrecking the Golden Rule. After a thorough and exhaustive investigation of the whole matter, the officers of the Government were almost unanimously of the opinion that the loss of the ship was accidental, and that no robbery had been committed; a conclusion apparently quite justified by the fact that not one of the bonds alleged to have been stolen have been presented for payment, although more than six years have elapsed since the destruction of the vessel. The *Sun* publishes a diagram of the log of the wrecked steamer, for the purpose of showing that she was deliberately steered out of her course, which differed her on Roncador reef. When it next reverts to the subject, we suggest that it print the chart of a certain other Golden Rule, that our contemporary may see for itself how widely it has departed from the true course. Fair fighting is legitimate enough; but it is only barbarians who use stink pots.

THE Grand Duke will be the guest of Philadelphia on Monday evening, a special feature of which reception will be the ball at the Academy of Music on Monday night, and it is especially desirable that the occasion should be made in every way commensurate with its high importance and the hospitality of our guest. It was expected that the tickets for the occasion would be largely sought after, but, says the *Inquirer* of Thursday, "owing to the excitement consequent upon the Chicago disaster, they have not been in such demand as was anticipated, and some members of the committee are fearful that the necessary number of admissions may not be disposed of. It is said that there is a disposition to come up to the rescue would get the tickets off, and something like spontaneity in appearance secured.

A NEW method of sewerage, known as the pneumatic system, in which air is the motive power, is at present attracting a good deal of attention. The plan is to divide a city into complexes and sub-com. plexes, a sub-complex consisting of about 200 houses, and a complex comprising all the sub-complexes within a radius of 2,500 feet. Each complex has a large air-tight cast-iron reservoir, and each subcomplex a smaller one connecting with the main reservoir and with the houses. Every house is provided with valves and cocks, by which a circulation of air may be prevented. The air inside is exhausted by machinery, and the end cannot be sent at less than letter rates, *i. e.*, six cents for each ounce, and three cents for the half ounce.

The Probate Court of Cincinnati has just decided that an attorney cannot receive compensation for partial or unfinished services; that he must go through with a case once undertaken, or surrender all pecuniary claims against his client. Also that he cannot, without the consent of his client, transfer to another attorney a case intrusted to him.

The Cincinnati *Price Current* is of the opinion that the time is at hand when the curing of pork must be continued throughout the year by the ice process instead of confining the business mainly to winter curing, in order to be profitable and to avoid the great expense and risk of holding large stocks of winter cured for summer use.

The Toronto Board of Trade has recently issued a circular to the merchants of Canada, the object of which is to urge upon all business men the duty and necessity of insuring their property against fire, not only as a safeguard to their own interest, but also as a measure of protection to their creditors. Several instances are cited in which debtors paid only from twenty-five to fifty cents on the dollar, when a policy of insurance would have enabled them to meet all their engagements.

The Territorial Legislature of Columbia proposes to ask Congress to give the citizens of the District the right to elect one or more electors of President and Vice-President of the United States.

The Oregon *Bulletin* says it understands that General Palmer has done away with all modes of punishment at the Siletz Reservation, and governs his Indians solely by moral suasion.

New York is certainly to be pitied. The smallpox is increasing in that city at an alarming rate, while at a meeting of the Brooklyn Board of Health, last Saturday, the Health Officer stated that there was danger of the disease becoming epidemic in that city also. Vaccination had been discontinued owing to a lack of funds, and twenty assistants employed for that purpose had been discharged.

A NEW IDEA IN WINTER BONNETS.

Of course there is nothing new to chronicle in the shape of winter bonnets. The designs differ very little from those of last season, the only difference perceptible being some little tricks of trimming, which varies with the taste of every milliner. The massing of the trimming at the back is almost universal, and not at all new; but the late winter styles, it is observed, allow some of the feather and ribbon loops to droop low, instead of turning them, as formerly, mainly up over the crown. The tendency, moreover, to trim handsome bonnets of black velvet by ladies who wish to indulge in no more showy dress the season, has suggested an excellent idea, which is carried out by several first class milliners. This is, to supply with the complete bonnet a bow, or short curled ostrich plume, of two different tints or colors, either of which can be added upon occasion, without detracting from the general effect. For the evening, a blonde lady can add to her all black, yet handsome bonnet of velvet, lace and feathers, a single drooping plume of pink at the back and a bow of velvet to match for the front, and produce a most distinguished effect, or for day reception and visiting purposes, a pale blue bow and plume can be substituted, which is removed when the bonnet is required for an ordinary promenade. In this way one bonnet can be a stapled very successfully to different costumes and different occasions.

A WINTER MORNING COSTUME.

The "Dolly Varden" costume which was made in chintz during the summer now appears in figured cashmere, looped up with black velvet bows and mounted with deep black velvet and cuffs and *revers*.

A demi-trained skirt of black silk faced velveteen completes a very stylish morning dress. Another very pretty morning toilette, consists of a simple demi-trained dress of scarlet wool embroidered with white, small pelerine caps to match. Bright, light blue is made in the same style.

The "Wattean" in cashmere or wadded silk is still worn, but is so well known it calls for no special mention.

CHEAP FURS.

Furs are very much reduced in prices this season, and show so much variety, as well as neatness, and such appropriateness of style to costume, as to have greatly stimulated the trade in them, which for the past few years has been somewhat depressed. Mink no longer monopolizes the popular trade; it is rivalled successfully by seal-skin, and black marten, either of which can be purchased at much lower rates. A seal skin set of muff, and boa, or a seal skin jacket, forms a most welcome gift, and is especially finding an appreciation which has long been bestowed upon them in England.

Fur trimmed suits in cloth and velvet are also a most seasonable speciality, astrachan, black and gray, black marten, chinchilla and gray squirrel furs being the most used. The fox furs are most extremely elegant, and are worn by ladies of taste, and are only employed upon the most expensive velvet suits.

SHELL JEWELRY

has acquired a great and still increasing vogue. The chain necklaces have large oval lockets attached, upon which cameo heads are exquisitely carved, earrings and breastpin, if desired, being carved to match. Such a set costs one hundred and fifty dollars.

The most fashionable shell fans are mounted upon the sides, with jewels, turquoises, and garnets set in antique style. Prices range from twenty-five dollars. Plain ivory fans, so clear that they are almost transparent, are acquiring an exclusive vogue for evening and dress parties, the monograms being either painted in delicate colors on the center, or cut in ivory and affixed to the sides. Point lace are reserved almost exclusively for brides.

JENNIE JUNE.

The Talking Machine.

[From the Boston Advertiser.]

Professor Fabers-Erben's remarkable invention, the talking machine, was shown in Horticultural Hall on Saturday afternoon and evening in the presence of fair audiences. It is not worth while, perhaps, to ask what the practical use of such an invention may be, and leaving that out of the question, it may be said that the machine is almost a success and that one can understand part of what it says. The inventor has closely copied the form and action of the different organs producing the human voice, those great stone mansions up town whose rooms or vast dimensions seem made expressly to receive five hundred friends, but not the least suspicion of coziness or home idle about them. Crimson carpeting, great heavy curtains, frescoed walls and gold, some lovely pictures and statuary, &c., magnificent conservatory opening the whole length from one side of the drawing room, and displaying the wealth of tropical fruits and flowers, was all that the floating mass of guests made visible. A novelty in the arrangement consisted of small tables arranged with seats in the conservatory, at which refreshments were served—cakes, creams, ices, crystallized fruits, dolce and sec wines, and punch; and over the whole unseen music which inspired, but did not interrupt conversation.

The atmosphere was that of summer, and heightened the beauty of the fair and graceful women who, emerging from their fur-lined wrappings, stood a fairy, dazzling, delicate color shading into white in waves of misty lace. One of the dresses was a very pale blue satin embroidered with rosebuds and trimmed with wonderful white and duchesse lace, the finest ever made. Another was a faint buff, *Sallie*, embroidered with pearls, and not long ago upon flounces and tunic of the same shade edged with crimped fringe. A third was a delicate shade of *Sallie*, the flounces beaded and the tunic ornamented with feather inching of the same. The looping effected with bows and ends of white velvet and feathers. One of the toilettes was very quiet. It was of white velvet, with satin ascher and petticoat of white satin, ornamented with gold embroidery. The boddice and sleeves were trimmed with very rich white lace, headed with strings of pearls—and pearls formed the necklace and a sort of coronet for her hair, which was worn in a profusion of natural curls. It was a costume of the time of Charles the First. The young ladies wore white tulle, gauzed with silver, or of white lace, or muslin over light tinted silk. Hardly any jewels were worn, but pearls and diamonds. Here and there a solitary emerald or ruby fan were to be seen, but they looked exceedingly out of place. The white satin vests of the gentlemen have almost disappeared. Instead there is a great display of delicately embroidered shirt fronts and minute diamond studs.

THE GIFT SEASON.

New York city is seen at its best during the next six weeks or two months preceding the holidays. The demand for gifts is unusually large, and the trade is gay with equipages, and the preparation made by merchants and storekeepers for the season of gifts, &c. Nor is the enterprise by any means confined to the great stores and regular lines of merchandise. All along the broad-flagged sidewalks, there are recesses and stone steps which are taken possession of by itinerants of every description, women with infants in arms, young children, aged men and women, and no one can begrudge the only paltry wares as varied as their own nationality. Crying dolls, doll babies, doll nurses, doll perambulators, dolls' furniture, dolls' dressed trunks, bonbon boxes, fancy baskets, tiny baskets of flowers, cushions, flying birds, swinging mirrors and the like are among the evidences of their skill and ingenuity and for some four weeks at least they carry on a thriving business. The range of prices being from about five to fifty cents.

Yes is different from these poor little trades people are the princely mercantile houses which surround one of the localities where they most do congregate —Union Square. A walk through some of them is more than a visit to the palace of Aladdin. There are treasures of art, and the industry from all parts of the world and from under the sea. Enter the massive doors of Tiffany for example, and one would imagine himself in an art museum rather than a business establishment. There is hardly a room in the building but has the highest evidence of luxury or taste. The attendants are gentleman, the customers people of leisure and high culture who move and speak softly, and with that quiet air which distinguishes men and women accustomed to the best society. No one is hurried, and if there is difficulty if you are not quite certain of your intentions is to get some one to persuade you that you have come to the right thing. You may walk from the diamond counter to the silver, and from the silver to the fancy cases, and from the jewelry department to the fancy goods, and after satisfying your eyes with Vienna work and English bronzes, and work baskets, and shell work of home manufacture, and fans and opera glasses and vinaigrettes of the most exquisite manufacture, you may take the elevator without a question and mount to the second floor where is the finest collection of bronzes ever brought to this country. There is Velas's great work, "The

The Pittsburgh Commercial: Saturday, December 9, 1871.

FARM, GARDEN AND HOUSEHOLD.

How Much Hay a Horse Eats.

The *Stock Journal* says: "An acre of ground retained expressly for hay yields on an average not more than one and a half tons of vegetable food; an equal space planted with carrots or rutabagas will yield from ten to twenty tons—say fifteen tons—which is by no means a high average, and has often been attained without any extraordinary attention. It has been ascertained by careful experiment that three working horses, fifteen and a half hands high, consume hay at the rate of two hundred pounds a week, or five tons and 1,040 pounds per annum; carrots one and a half bushels of oats per week, seventy-eight bushels per annum. By a repetition of the same experiment it is found that unworked horses consume hay at the rate of four and a quarter tons per annum.

"The produce, therefore, of nearly six acres of land is necessary to support a working horse for one year; but half an acre of carrots, 600 bushels per acre, with the addition of chopped straw, while the season of feeding them lasts, will do as well if not better. These things do not admit of doubt, for they have been the subjects of exact trials, as some of your agricultural friends will testify.

"It has also been proved that the value of one bushel of corn, together with the fodder upon which it grew, will keep a horse in good order for a week. An acre planted in corn and yielding sixty bushels will be ample to keep a good-sized horse at hard working order one year.

"Let the farmer then consider whether it is better to maintain a horse on the product of half an acre of rutabagas or carrots, or upon the product of an acre of corn; or, on the other hand, upon the value of grain from six acres of land; for it will require six acres of good land to produce the grain and fodder and grain as above. The same reasoning might be made use of in the feeding of cattle and sheep."

WOMEN FARMERS.

On the eastern shore of Canandaigua lake, according to the Rochester *Union*, live two very unusual people. The question whether women can make good lecturers, doctors, professors or store-keepers is now, by many, conceded on the score of practical demonstration; and the cases to which we refer may be profitably cited in behalf of the fitness of women to succeed, unaided, in agriculture. Sloping down in emerald turf to the lake there lie, affirms our authority, two beautiful farms which have been entirely worked out of primitive wilderness by women. The owners are two sisters, daughters of a pioneer named Fuller, who, more than half a century ago, made his way into the forest regions surrounding the romantic lakes of interior New York. At his death he left his children land, but little else, and the two girls, Laura and Electa, resolved to become farmers. Both are now past sixty, and, since early womanhood they have cultivated their grounds with their own hands. Each has a smiling farm and a snug cottage, the latter nestling among shade-trees, close to the edge of the lake. The lands, bearing "fruit, grass and other crops," stretch far away in the rolling hills. The editor of the journal named has lately "interviewed" the proprietors, and thus became aware of the facts he has made public. "All about," he says, "looks thrifty," and the farm work appears to be thoroughly and judiciously done. Miss Laura Fuller was first called upon. This lady wears "a short and rather loosely fitting dress, a hood and a pair of men's boots." She has a beard as heavy as is often seen upon a man, and a voice that would not be mistaken for that of a woman. She is "tolerably well informed," and showed that her heart was in her vocation. She also plies it without masculine help, and with decided prosperity, as testimonials to her sisters, Electa, is, however, regarded as the best manager and "most business-like person of the two. Her visitor found this lady to have much the appearance of her sister, but she is "more dignified and patriarchal, with a beard considerably bald, and locks whitened by the frosts of many winters." Miss Fuller, we are assured, cut away the virgin forest that once covered her farm with her own hands. All the toil that was needed to bring the land into condition she performed, sawing and log alone. She had reared stock of all kinds, "including fine horses and colts, for which a great fancy had been taken." The wild beasts that formerly infested her neighborhood, this Diana of the wilderness herself says, and rumor has it also, have all been slain or assumed to title with Electa, had fallen as did the beasts and trees." We take it for granted, however, that this is one of those delicious exaggerations which the world is so prone to invent for persons as all eccentric, and that wood and fur have been the only victims to Miss Electa's bow and spear.

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A HAPPY AFFAIR.

Thanksgiving Evening Consonbure—Presentation to Dr. Smith—Speeches, &c.

Knowing that very many of your readers, especially the alumni of Jefferson College, will be interested in hearing how Thanksgiving evening was spent in Canonsburg, I ask the privilege of giving a full report of what I witnessed.

The Brown Brothers having been requested to give a concert in Providence Hall on this evening, one of their number, the Rev. W. F. Brown, who has been laboring with untiring zeal to raise a thank-offering from the alumni of Jefferson College for their former Professor of Greek, Dr. Smith, thought this a good time to give him and also the audience a pleasant surprise.

Everything pertaining to the concert passed off with marked success, the audience showing by frequent applause their appreciation of both the vocal and instrumental music. About as the concert was about to be closed, Rev. W. F. Brown came forward and addressed the Rev. Dr. Smith in the following words:

"On this night is a night which brings much pleasure to my heart. For a long time I have almost regarded you as a father, and have felt that in this character you were held by many of the sons of Jefferson; and yet days, weeks, months and even years have passed, and of the great affection which every alumnus feels towards you, there has been no manifestation. But it is by happiness to-day to have had while in the many changes which are effected by time, both things and people are forgotten, your name still lives in the memory of those whom you have helped along the path of wisdom, fame and honor. They have not forgotten your zeal for their welfare, your wishes for their success, your labors for their temporal good, and your prayers for their eternal interest, and have sought each one, 'Let my right hand forget her cunning; let my tongue cleave to the roof of my mouth, if I forget the kindness and love of my aged Professor in Greek. For nearly half a century you have been connected with Jefferson College, and during this time, 'hundreds have been led by you along the slopes and vales of the Helicon, and not a few of them through the green natures and beside the still waters of a Savior's love. For almost half a century while some, and all horror to our 'Alma Mater' their number is small, have risen against the Institution to which they are indebted for their success in life; yes, although waging but little temporal benefit, have remained firm and true even to the end, rejoicing in the hour her prosperity and sorrowing in the hour of her adversity. No, you are not forgotten by those of us who have listened to your words of knowledge, and are profited by your kind and courteous advice.

"We all cherish pleasant reminiscences of you as a social gentleman, a thorough teacher, a kind friend, a faultless exemplar. And when the question was asked, shall Dr. Smith, so universally beloved by all who know him, spend his remaining days on a salary scarcely a manifestation of our affection? from the East and from the West, from the North and from the South, the answer came, No, two thousand times no, and this signifies $2,000, a gift, though small in itself, yet is cheerfully given, and the only gift which is that is not a hundred times larger. May this would smooth your pathway to the grave. You are well aware that effective as is called 'The Poor Man's College;' and so sons have little or no money to spare for supporting ministers who, instead of receiving wages for their hire, pay for the privilege of preaching the gospel of Christ, and this is the reason the it is so small. But please receive it as an humble pression of the grateful feelings which spring up in within our hearts, and may you be spared many ars to counsel us in our efforts to re-establish Jefferson College; and may your future days among me meet within her walls to rejoice that 'the dead alive again, and that the lost is found.'"

As soon as Mr. Brown had finished his remarks he esented Dr. Smith with a certificate of deposit for 00, and amid the applause of the audience he ok his seat.

This brought out Dr. Smith, who, being very deeply ected, replied somewhat as follows:

"Had I gone asleep in Canonsburg and awoke in America, I could not have been more surprised an I have been at what has just occurred. To the mni for their kind remembrance of me, please ccept my sincere thanks. During forty-six years as professor in Jefferson College, and through ime my relations with the students and Board of Trustees were always friendly; and with your ve grand-father and your beloved father ll the other members of the faculty, my ndship was as great as ever existed between ng men. To you, my son, I owe your kind services for the College. I never sought another fice, because I thought the Providence designed me to labor, and I have the satisfaction of owing that no College has done more for the ork in the country than Jefferson. You are all to be recognized as sound and thorough scholars erywhere, and in point of learning she stands in the third college in the land. I have strong pes that she will be restored to her former grandor, and I hope to see these walls filled with young men who are anxious to be liberally educated."

The Doctor having taken his seat, Rev. Mr. Collier ved that the thanks of the audience be tendered the rown Brothers" for their delightful entertainment, and to the Rev. W. F. Brown for his efforts in half of Dr. Smith. This was heartily endorsed. d the audience quietly retired, well pleased with e Thanksgiving ceremonies of 1871 in Canonsburg.

THE RIGHTS OF SELF DEFENSE.

dge Allison's Opinion on the Right to Carry Arms.

During the course of a murder trial in Philadelphia few days ago, a colored witness for the Commonwith appeared on the stand with a loaded pistol on h person, which created quite a sensation and conerable discussion, the counsel for the prisoner estioning the right of the witness to bear arms, twithstanding the statement that he carried the apon for the defense of his person, having been wady shot at three or four times. The presiding dge, however, decided that upon the facts stated the witness he was justified under the law of the nd. Afterwards, in his charge to the jury, he eelt at further length upon the matter, declaring at the language of the Constitution, affirming the ht of the citizen to bear arms in defense themselves and the State, placed right above all legislative, judicial individual question, and that it could not be taway till the Constitution itself upon the subject ould be changed. The act of assembly of May 8, 1856, is not in conflict with this constitutional bit. The law is aimed at the habitual carrying of rtful and malicious injury, and is not designed to erfere with the sacred right of defense of life or rson against violent or deadly assault. Whether principle be applied to the case of the witness one life had been attacked, and who feared a reption of it, or to a class of persons similarly situ- ed, the supreme law of the land protects him and ; and if there were any such statutes to the ntrary, they would not be worth the paper on hich they are printed, be cause they would call in e question that which the Bill of Rights declares is ed question, and against which there can be no

THANKSGIVING EPISODE.

A Southern Batchelor Carries Away a Northern Belle—The Marriage—Scenes and Incidents.

Among all the pleasing incidents occurring on Thanksgiving Day, none took precedence of the gorgeous wedding which occurred in the quiet village of Aipsville, on the line of the Pittsburgh and Connellsville Railroad. For some time it was known that a gentleman from Memphis, Tennessee, had become a worshipper at the shrine of Northern female beauty, and was about to marry and bear away to his Southern home one of our fairest and most gifted daughters. Who the happy Southerner and who the Northern maiden were was for some time a mystery. But it was soloved by the distribution of handsomely embellished cards, inviting the friends of the parties to meet at the residence of Captain N. J. Bigley, the widely known coal dealer, on Thanksgiving Day, at which time his daughter, Miss Mollie Bigley, would be united in the holy bonds of matrimony to J. A. J. Smith, Esq., of Memphis, Tennessee.

Captain Bigley, who never does anything by halves, placed at the disposal of the invited guests from the city a special train of cars, which left the depot at eight o'clock in the morning carrying away a happy throng of sedate wives and husbands; joyous young maidens and gallant young men. "All aboard" was shouted by the genial and efficient conductor, Thos. Drake, and soon the train was speeding on its way. At Aipsville the time of the train additional were made to the gay party, which upon the arrival of the train at Aipsville, amounted to about one hundred. Nearing the village the bell of the church sent forth a merry peal which reverberated over and back of the hills that encircle the village, announcing that the appointed time for the marriage ceremony had arrived.

After a short delay the guests repaired to the Catholic church, situated a short distance from the residence of Captain Bigley, and built mainly through the munificence of that gentleman. But a few moments intervened ere the bridal party arrived and entered the church, preceded by Captain Bigley and his estimable wife, followed by the bridesmaids and groomsmen, flanked by the bride and groom, who passed up the aisle and took their positions in front of the altar. The church was tastefully decorated, as was Mr. Bigley's residence, by the skillful hands of Mr. Elliot, florist, on Market street. The fair bride was attired in a white satin dress, richly and elaborately trimmed with a court train. We need say nothing more than that she was tastefully and becomingly dressed, and when kneeling before the altar pledging her vows of love and troth, she looked a perfect Hebe. The bridesmaids, Miss Lottie Hook, of Columbus, Pa., Miss Smith, of Memphis and Miss Jennie Bigley, were handsomely costumed in white fabrics. The groomsmen, Dr. Swenzien, Mr. Andrew Bigley and Mr. Grace, were in full evening dress. The groom, as all grooms should be, was attired in a suit of faultless black, and seemed to feel conscious that he was about to secure a rich prize in the matrimonial lottery.

As the happy pair entered the church Mendelssohn's wedding march was performed on the organ and harp, Miss Jennie McGraw presiding at the organ and Prof. Edward Morgan, late of London, at the harp. The ladies and gentlemen composing the choir were seated with wax candles from the male and female musicians of St. Philomena's, Trinity, St. Augustine's and St. Peter's Catholic churches, among whom we noticed the following: Mr. Seeger, leader; Mr. Frank Walker, Mr. Robert McGraw and Mr. Averman, tenors; Messrs. Conway, Loeffler, Fisher and Feiswell, bass; Miss Schutzinger, Miss Donahue and Mrs. Butler, sopranos, Miss Lizzie Bigley, alto; Mr. Cooley and Master Smith, alto; harpist Prof. Hoffman, and organist Prof. Morgan—unexcelled. Her sister, Electa, is, however, regarded as the best manager and "most business-like person of the two. Her visitor found this lady to have much the appearance of her sister, but she is "more dignified and patriarchal, with a beard considerably bald, and locks whitened by the frosts of many winters." Miss Fuller, we are assured, cut away the virgin forest that once covered her farm with her own hands. All the toil that was needed to bring the land into condition she performed, sawing and log alone. She had reared stock of all kinds, "including fine horses and colts, for which a great fancy had been taken." The wild beasts that formerly infested her neighborhood, this Diana of the wilderness herself says, and rumor has it also, have all been slain or assumed to title with Electa, had fallen as did the beasts and trees." We take it for granted, however, that this is one of those delicious exaggerations which the world is so prone to invent for persons as all eccentric, and that wood and fur have been the only victims to Miss Electa's bow and spear.

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FIRE ON FIFTH AVENUE.

Maltby's Oyster Depot Destroyed.

At ten minutes after three o'clock Wednesday morning, an alarm was sounded from the box on the corner of Wood street and Diamond alley. In a few minutes thereafter it was discovered that Maltby's oyster depot, No. 92 Fifth avenue, was on fire. The front door was burst open by the firemen, and instantaneously an immense volume of flames leaped forth from it. It seemed as though the fire had been pent up for some time, and when the air was admitted the flame rose in a dense volume to the height of twenty-five or thirty feet. The windows were next broken in, and then caused by this time two streams were being thrown into the first story, where the fire was found. The firemen labored right here furiously for about fifteen minutes, when the flames were seen breaking through the floor into the second story. The glass in the windows here also gave way as soon as the water struck it, and the flames burst forth afresh. A general alarm was then sounded, and other fire apparatus were soon on hand.

In half an hour the flames were mainly subdued, and there was nothing for the fire-men to do but confined to the building where it originated.

The origin was in the cellar building, four stories high, erected about two years ago. It is insured.

The building adjoins the Adams Express Co.'s warehouse, on the south, and the Saloon, both of which were in imminent danger for a time.

Three horses were burnt up in the oyster warehouse. At four o'clock the fire was under control of the firemen.

CLEVELAND AND PITTSBURGH RAILROAD.

Appointments Under the New Management.

J. M. McCullough, General Manager of the Pennsylvania Company, assumes the management of the Cleveland and Pittsburgh Railroad Company on the 1st proximo, under the lease of that Road to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company. He has made the following appointments, to take effect on that day:

R. F. French, Assistant General Manager, office at Cleveland, O.; S. A. Ingersoll, office at Cleveland, O.; G. F. Shafer, Auditor, office at Cleveland, O.; John Thomas, Superintendent, office at Wellsville, O.; Wm. Howard, Ticket Agent, office on Fifth Pittsburgh; F. H. Myers, General Passenger and Ticket Agent, office at Pittsburgh.

FINANCE AND TRADE

WEDNESDAY EVENING, December 6, 1871.

There is little of change to note in regard to our local money market. Discount lines are full, and customer paper only is discounted by our banks. No change has occurred to-day in local stocks.

—Remarking on the effect of the President's message and accompanying documents on the money market, the New York *Commercial Advertiser* of Tuesday evening says:

"To sum up as far as the money market is concerned, neither the reports of departments, nor the schemes already broached in Congress for bringing legal tenders to par with gold, have any perceptible effect upon our situation or immediate prospects, except some speculative movement in Western Union, and, to a smaller extent, in Pacific Mail."

—Messrs. Ira B. McVay & Co. report the following quotations of Government bonds in New York to-day, as furnished them by Jay Cooke & Co., their correspondents:

	Morn.	Noon.	Close.
U. S. Bonds of 1881	111¾	111¾	111¾
U. S. Bonds of 1862	110¾	110¾	110¾
U. S. Bonds of 1864	110¾	110¾	110¾
U. S. Bonds of 1865	111½	111	111
U. S. Bonds of 1865 (new)	113¾	113¾	113¾
U. S. Bonds of 1867	114¾	114¾	114¾
U. S. Bonds of 1868	114¾	114¾	114¾
6-20s	109¾	109¾	109¾
Sold	109¾	109¾	109¾

—James T. Brady & Co., corner of Fourth avenue and Wood street, quote United States securities in New York to-day as follows:

Gold	109¾
United States 6s of 1881	111¾
United States 5-20s of 1862	110¼
United States 5-20s of 1864	110¾
United States 5-20s of 1865	110¾
United States 10-40s	109¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1865	113¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1867	114¾
United States 5-20s, January and July, 1868	114¾
Union Pacific Railroad	
Central Pacific Railroad	
Currency Pacifics	112

—The following table, made up from telegrams received at J. W. Kennedy's Stock Rooms, Apollo building, No. 80 Fourth avenue, shows the prices of railway stocks, gold, etc., at the various sessions of the New York Stock Exchange during the day:

December 6, 1871.	10:30 A. M.	11:00 A. M.	12:30 P. M.	1:30 P. M.	3:00 P. M.
A. & P.	95¼	95¼	95¼	95¼	95¾
Do. Scrip	87½	87½	86¾	87	87
Adams Express	56¾	56¾	56¾	56¾	56¾
Reading	114½	114½	114½	114½	115
Michigan Central			117½		
Mich. Cent.	117½	117½	117½	117½	117½
Lake Shore	90¾	90¾	90¾	90¾	90¾
Illinois Cent.	132	132½		132½	
Pacific Mail	125½	125½	125½	125½	126
C. A. N. W.			61½		61½
Do. pref.	84½	84½	84½	84½	84½
Rock Island	103½	103½	103½	103½	103¾
St. Paul	46	46	46	46	46
Do. pref.	78¾	78¾	78¾	78¾	78¾
Ft. Wayne	97½	97½	97½	97½	97½
Ohio & Miss.	42½	42½	42	42	42½
Ohio & Alton	117	118½			
Do. pref.					
North Pacific			38½	38½	38½
N. J. Central	101½	101½	101½	101½	101½
Quicksilver	36¾	36¾	36¾	36¾	36¾
W. U. Tel.					
Pacific Mail	86¾	87	87	87	87
Adams Ex.	87½	87½	87½	87½	87½
Wells, F. & Co.	87½	87½	87½	87½	87½
American Ex.	56	56	56	56	56
U. S. Ex.	53½	53½	53½	53½	53½
Gold	109¾	109¾	109¾	109¾	109¾

Regarding the prospect in Congress relative to "Revenue Reform," the Washington correspondent of the New York *Journal of Commerce* (free trade) writes as follows:

Each day strengthens the opinion that we are to have a session devoted in considerable part to the revenue laws, and yesterday's experience among the members of both Houses makes me feel more certain that something will be done in reducing the tariff. The President's recommendations are in exact the Administration desires: *Reduction of revenue to the new policy.* As to that assertion it is morally certain that a majority of the people are in favor of reducing the revenue in the interest of cheap living, if for no patriotic motives. Leaders of the high tariff should know this, and appreciate the force of public opinion. Direct reduction of taxation is a matter of policy would be a point gained, and an early virtue will now be made of an ultimate necessity. From the President's message we go to the formation of the Ways and Means Committee. There we find Morrill, Kelley, Dawes, three high tariff men, and Robers, a moderate man, but disposed to vote wit hthe other three on an important subject. That makes four high tariff men. We have heard from Pinckeinbrig, Kerr and Beck, low tariff men, and Burchard, a tariff man, but of his businessport school. Mr. Burchard is a Republican, the successor of Hon. E. R. Washburne. He will vote to make such things as wool, hides, iron, free. He will shear the duties down till he believes he has them as low as business requires, and no more, and will go no further. But in reducing the tariff there will be a limit placed before the committee, a round figure to be named by them, and they will never be it, paying their attention to all things in the tariff necessary to the revenue. We are now a step over it almost as long and difficult as that which occurred two years ago this session, and then from early in the winter till the 1st of next July. It is readily discovered, by noticing the official statements in the telegraphic reports, and comparing them with the correct status of the Committee of Ways and Means, as given above, that the Administration has made no new departure in the interests of the people in the respect of taxation. The Committee of Ways and Means, as at present constituted, is the very instrument as could be expected to accomplish a high-tariff Speaker of the House of Representatives by his appointment, in connection with the President's Message, would seem to give a promise of reform in the revenue.

In conversation with some Senators, the fact is elicited that the session of Congress will be a short part of certain western and northwestern Senators to press the bills repealing the duties on coal and salt to an immediate and successful issue in the Senate. It will be remembered that both these bills passed the House this session, and the question is the only thing necessary to place them before the President for his signature.

—Messrs. Bowen & Fox, brokers and members of the Philadelphia Stock Exchange, furnish the following quotations of the closing prices to-day of the most active stocks:

Pennsylvania Central		58¾
Philadelphia and Erie		29½
Lehigh Navigation		56¾
Catawissa preferred		45
Oil Creek and Allegheny Railroad		49
Lehigh Valley Railroad		60
North Pennsylvania Railroad		19
Camden and Amboy Railroad		136½
Schuylkill Navigation		16½
Reading		114¾

—JAMES W. KENNEDY, Broker, No. 80 Fourth avenue, (Apollo Building), dealer in Government, State and Municipal Bonds, Railroad, Bank, Insurance and Miscellaneous Stocks. Represented daily at the New York Stock Exchange, he buys and sells stocks in any part of the country, and quotes them at the same terms as the New York brokers. Money to loan in a sums of $500 and upwards on collateral or well informed promissory notes, or on mortgages on city or Allegheny county real estate.

PITTSBURGH OIL TRADE.

OFFICE OF THE PITTSBURGH COMMERCIAL, THURSDAY, December 7, 1871.

REMARKS.

The business we have before noted has been maintained; holders have evidently made up their minds that the bottom has been reached, indications point that way. Taken as a whole the market is in a more healthy condition than for some time past.

CRUDE.

The following are the asking prices for the deliveries mentioned: Spot 11¾c; December 11¾c; B. O., all year 11½c. Parties to sell per bbl.

REFINED.

Firmness was the ruling feature of the market. The cold spell seems to have given a fillip to quotations. None were reported. We quote nominally: Spot 21¾a21½c; December 21¾a21½c; January 22¾c; February 22¾a22½c.

[By Western Union Line.]

TITUSVILLE, December 6.—The market was 24¾a25c firmer yesterday. Sugar Creek, and a little firmer below. Following are the

SALES:

2,000	bbls	upper creek, regular	24¼@ 25
2,000	bbls	upper creek, spot	24 17½
1,000	bbls	upper creek, spot	24 17½
1,000	bbls	upper creek, s. o. all year	24 17½
1,000	bbls	upper creek, b. o. all year	24 25
1,000	bbls	lower creek, spot	24 25
1,000	bbls	lower creek, spot	24 25
500	bbls	lower creek, regular	24 24¾
2,000	bbls	Oil City	24 25
1,000	bbls	Roneseville	24 25
4,000	bbls	Petroleum Center	24 25

NEW YORK, December 6, closing of 5th.—Crude is not held nearly as firmly, with moderate offerings and fair inquiry; sales 2,000 bbls at 13¾c. Refined higher, and there is some little shipping inquiry; sales 1,000 bbls at 22¼c; 500 bbls each month from January to March at 22½c; cargoes at the close were offered at 22¼c; cases firm at 37a37½c. Philadelphia delivery very firm, with moderate inquiry; sales 1,000 bbls refined for December at 22½c.

OIL CITY, December 6.—Market lower and nominal in the absence of sales. Crude held $1 45a1 50, with few sales and but little disposition to operate.

ROUSEVILLE, December 6.—Market quiet and steady at 24¾a25c.

PETROLEUM CENTER, December 6.—Market quiet at 24¾a25c.

TITUSVILLE, December 6.—Market quiet and firm; spot and S. O. 1871 24 17½; B.O. 1871 at 22¾a24 25.

[By Pacific Express Line.]

TIDIOUTE, December 6.—Market very firm at 24 10a24 20.

NEW YORK, December 6.—The market continues steady and prices are firmer; rumored settlement of 2,000 bbl December contracts at 22¾c, and sales of 800 bbls at 22¾c; crude firm and prices advanced since morning, with sales of 2,800 bbls spot at 13¾; 2,000 bbls held at same.

PHILADELPHIA, December 6.—December 22c asked; January and February 22½c. Crude 12¾c.

OIL CITY, December 6.—Market quiet and firm at $4 00a4 00.

ROUSEVILLE, December 6.—Market very firm; offering $4 50a4 75; holding off for $4 40.

PLEASANTVILLE, December 6.—Market quiet and firm at $4 26.

PETROLEUM CENTER, December 6.—Market firm at $4 26; no sales.

Printing Cloths.

The *Providence Journal* says: Market very firm and steady. Nearly everything is cleaned up to the first of April; those who have not sold holding for 5c. The following are the offerings:

40,000	pieces, 64x64, 7¾c,	January, February and March, cash ten days, all to be delivered in the mill.	
25,000	do	64x64, 7¾c,	January, February and March.
21,000	do	64x64, 7¾c,	on hand.
11,000	do	64x64, 6¾c,	delivered from November to April.
50,000	do	64x64, 7¾c,	January, February and March, cash ten days, sale made early in the season.
15,000	do	64x64, 7¾c,	to be delivered in December.
162,000	pieces.		

New York Hop Market.

December 2.—The market is very firm, with more inquiry for all kinds. Sales, 290 bales 1871's at 55a56c; 150 bales 1870's; and 100 bales 1869's at 55c for all for consumption. The receipts continue very light for the season. We are indebted to Mr. Emmet Wells for the following figures:

	Bales.
Receipts for the week	357
Receipts corresponding week last year	3,377
For the month of November, 1871	2,345
For the month of November, 1870	17,796
Export for the week	100
Total exports since September 1	1,933
Imports for the week	29
Total imports since September 1	1,993

COAL MARKETS.

CINCINNATI.

December 5.—Since the recent increase in the supply the retail trade has been very active, and it has been impossible to fill orders. Prices are now fairly established as follows:

Youghiogheny, afloat, ⅝ bush..... 14c
Youghiogheny, delivered, ⅝ bush..... 20c
Gas Coke, at yards, ⅝ bush..... 10c
Gas Coke, delivered, ⅝ bush..... 12c
Hard Foundery, delivered, ⅝ bush..... 16a17c

New York Hop Market.

November 29.—There is more doing in the article, consumers having purchased since our last about 800 bales 1871 at from 50 to 65c—the quantity of fine quality 1871's remaining is very small—of those sold the quality has been fair to good. There is also more inquiry for 1869's and 1870's, owing to improvement in the London market, with sales of some 350 bales at from 15 to 25c.

For "extra, 1,200 to 1,500 lbs steers $5 00 to $6 25; prime 1,200 to 1,300 lbs steers, $5 25a5 75; medium, 1,100 to 1,200 steers, $4 75a5 00; common butcher stock, $4 25a4 50; cows and heifers, $3 50 to $4 50; bulls, $2 50a3 00; stockers, $3 00a4 00.

ARRIVALS.

The following are the arrivals as reported by Mr. S. R. McKown, Agent Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad:

	Car.
L. Rothchild, from Xenia, Ohio	1
Marks & Katz, from Chicago, Ill	1
Marks & Bro, from Urbana, Ohio	1
Greenwald & Kahn, from Crestline, Ohio	1
J. R. Groves, from Newark, Ohio	1
Holler & Anderson, from Newark, Ohio	1
J. Manling, from Londonville, Ohio	1
J. W. Unger, from Galion, Ohio (mixed stock)	1
B. Johnson, from Enon, Ohio	1
Thomas Dalzell, from Enon, Ohio	1
J. Lawrence, from New Galilee, Ohio	1
J. Anderson, from Orrville, Ohio	1
G. D. Williams, from Delaney, Ohio	1
E. Thompson, from Belfair, Ohio	1
Cleveland & Pittsburgh Road (prepaid)	6

HOGS.

	Cars.
Greenwald & K. from Crestline, Ohio	1
J. R. Groves, from Newark, Ohio	1
P. M. Snyder, from Orrville, Ohio	2

Cattle Sales.

Peter Hartman sold 40 head Washington county cattle at prices from $3 50 to $6 00 ₩ 100 lbs; also, 7 bull at $2 ₩ 100 lbs.

E Katz sold 23 head Western stock at prices ranging from $4 25 to $5 50 ₩ 100 lbs, though the bulk of the sales were made between the two figures. The cold weather we are experiencing at present has had a good effect on the market, While it continues it will give an opportunity to packers to lay in their stock, and a Pittsburgh firm, Springer, Hinds & Co., commenced this week to do it, and it is possible if the cold weather continues a while longer that other firms will follow. To-day the market was somewhat demoralized by the change of hog changed hands, and the market closed in the evening firm at the following prices for the different grades: Extra Philadelphia, $4 55; good to prime, Philadelphia, 225 to 250, $4 50; good to prime New York, 180 to 220, $4 25a4 35; rough to common, $4 10.

Sheep.

The receipts of sheep since our last report have been light, and with a fair demand the market has continued steady with but little change until to-day, when the continued light receipts had the effect of causing a strong feeling and the market favored more active, most every thing selling. The market closes to-night firm at the following rates for the different grades and grades: Extra, 100 to 110 lbs, $6 25 ₩ 100 lbs; good to prime, 85 to 90 lbs, $5 75a5 50; decent to fair, 75 to 80 lbs, $4 50a5 00; mean to common, 70 to 75 lbs, $4 00a4 50; foot rot and scalawags, by the head, $2 00.

Cattle.

HEDGES, TAYLOR & HUFF SOLD

No.	Weight.	Price.	No.	Weight.	Price.
23	1,000	4 30	20	1,040	4 30
24	1,000	4 30	20	1,040	4 30
13	1,000	4 30	20	1,040	4 30
20

Weekly Commercial.

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 9, 1871.

TERMS.

One copy, per year, each mail subscriber.....$2 00
In clubs of twenty per year.....1 50
One copy gratis to the getter up of the club.

THE PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE.

The crowded condition of our columns renders it impossible to give the President's Message, herewith printed, anything like the consideration which its extrinsic and intrinsic importance alike demand; since, whilst by no means remarkable for graces of style or composition, it is one of the most plain, straight-forward, sensible, and upon the whole satisfactory documents of its kind transmitted to Congress for many years. After referring to the friendly relations of the United States with foreign countries, to the progress of civilization at home and abroad, and making a variety of suggestions proper to the effective carrying out of the different provisions of the late treaty with Great Britain, the importance of which, as the harbinger of a more pacific mode of settling international disputes, is tersely, but forcibly, dwelt upon, the Message proceeds at once to the consideration of matters which more nearly affect us. The disturbed condition of Cuba, and the annoyance and anxiety to which it has given rise, are remarked upon, and we are quite sure that every good citizen, without respect of party, will sustain the President in the instructions which, the Message states, he has caused to be conveyed to our naval commanders in Cuban waters, to spare no effort to protect the lives and property of American citizens, and to maintain the dignity of the country. The recommendations which it makes for an appropriation to support a number of discreetly chosen American youth in China and Japan, to serve as a part of the official families of our Ministers to those countries, is a bit of homely, practical wisdom, whose value, in view of the constantly increasing importance of our relations therewith, will strike everybody at first sight; while the measures urged for the support of the American lines of steamers plying between our Pacific ports and the Australian Colonies, will also doubtless meet with the approbation of the country at large.

One of the most important portions of the Message is that which, in view of the rapid reduction of the public debt, and the strengthening of the national credit which has followed its accomplishment, questions the desirability of continuing to tax the resources of the country in the degree hitherto done, and recommends a decrease in the rate of payment, and a modification of both the tariff and internal revenue laws, by abolishing all internal taxes except those collected from tobacco, stamps, and vinous and malt liquors, and placing on the free list "those articles which can best bear it without disturbing home productions or reducing the wages of the American laborer. Wisely, as we think, the Message leaves the details of these matters untouched; but there is no doubt that the general idea will meet with approval from all classes; as will also its recommendations for revising the present laws for collecting the revenue, and its suggestions as to the desirability of giving a fixed value to our currency, approaching par with specie, in order to get rid of the pernicious financial and mercantile effects of the present constant fluctuations in the price of gold.

It is also gratifying to know that the Message is in accord with the report of the Postmaster General, concerning the consolidation of the various telegraphic systems of the country with its postal service. The workings of the system in other countries show that the plan is equally feasible for our own. Indeed, all the facts which relate to the subject tend to demonstrate alike its utility and necessity.

The statements of the Message with respect to the Indians, the Mormons, and the Ku-Klux of the South, accord with the recent policy of the Administration in regard to these matters. Contrary, however, to general anticipation, it takes broad and liberal ground in favor of the removal of the disabilities imposed by the Fourteenth Amendment, and in so doing commends itself still further to the indorsement of a very large portion of the most intelligent and thoughtful citizens of the country.

Last, but not least, are the references which the Message makes to the subject of civil service reform; especially its strictures upon the prevalent habit of making recommendations for appointments to government positions without regard to the grave responsibilities incurred by the indorser in so doing, and its suggestion of the passage of a law making indorsers of persons for public place responsible for the honest discharge of their obligations. In these recommendations, as in all measures having for their object the purification and elevation of the public service, the President will be sustained by the unanimous voice of the people. Taken altogether, the Message will give general satisfaction, and increase the confidence already felt that the Executive has earnestly at heart the interest and welfare of the whole people, of whatever section.

IMPORTANCE OF OUR RIVER NAVIGATION.

Geographers set down the area of the Mississippi basin at one million three hundred thousand square miles—a superficies more than six times greater than that of imperial France. It is the largest in the world, except that of the Amazon, to which it is nevertheless greatly superior in a great many respects. The basin of the Amazon is equatorial in situation, and subject to the insalubrious influences universally incident to that locality. That of the Mississippi lies entirely within the temperate zone, within those lines of latitude most favorable to human improvement; extending from the twenty-ninth to the forty-seventh parallel; possessing every variety of climate, from the tropical to the frigid; sparkling out more than thirty degrees in longitude; covered with a soil generally rich for tillage; plentifully underlaid in various parts with minerals of far greater utility than gold; bounded east and west by mountain ranges, which with the undulations of the intervening regions intersected everywhere by winding streams and diversified by wood-lands, present an infinite variety of scenery—altogether constituting an assemblage of advantages existing nowhere else on earth.

The products of a territory so immense and fruitful are necessarily varied and abundant, inviting exchanges which benefit both producer and consumer in proportion to the cheapness of their transportation. This is especially true of some of the prime necessaries of life, such as coal, lumber, iron ore, limestone, salt, grain, provisions, wood, bark, and, in short, of all articles where the cost of transportation constitutes a principal share of the price to the consumer. It is in this view that the navigable waters of the Mississippi valley appear of the utmost importance. They are nature's cheap avenues of intercourse, fashioned by the same hand that spread out the fairest portion of the continent for the use of man, and were the highways by which the pioneers of the West penetrated the solitudes through which they wound their silent course. They seem especially adapted to the interchange of the abounding commodities of the great valley, which can be accomplished upon them for one-fourth the necessary charge by any artificial carriage. A single example sufficiently illustrates their unrivaled importance. The cost of coal is five cents at the pit's mouth. All above this sum, paid by the consumer, is made up of transportation.

But like most of the gifts of the Creator, these highways require the thought and labor of man to bring out their entire utility. The soil and seed are provided, but the ground must be tilled—increase cannot be had without toil. Minerals are stored in the earth, but they must be searched for and quarried. Thus, without exertion, little is provided for convenience or comfort—neither shelter, raiment, nor food. "God helps those who help themselves." He furnishes the means, but mind and effort are needed to utilize them. Were it otherwise, there would be no stimulus to develop intellect and induce discoveries.

Mr. W. Milnor Roberts, of our own city, has given more attention to the Ohio with reference to its navigable capabilities, than any other engineer. He expresses not a doubt of the entire feasibility of rendering it at all times fit for the use of the ordinary river craft. In his final report, to the proper department at Washington, he takes an elaborate view of the various methods that have been suggested for this purpose, and give facts and conclusions which place the question beyond cavil, with no other difficulty in the way of realizing a continuous navigation, but that of its cost.

Thus one of the greatest blessings to this mighty valley—cheap and perennial means of intercommunication—can be possessed, and its advantages shared by the people everywhere, if general attention and earnest exertion be given to the subject. Mr. Roberts says in his report: "The commercial navigation intercourse between the upper and lower Ohio is at all times very intimate; and where the water is at a medium, or any higher stage, the falls being practically obliterated it becomes one river, navigable from Pittsburgh to Cairo; not only to Cairo, but to New Orleans, and to the Upper Mississippi and the Missouri. It is then all one great river navigation, the grandest in the world."

To make it continually thus useful, is what can, and undoubtedly will be, effected. Let the subject be generally pressed upon public attention. The whole nation is interested in it. If coal and ores are brought together at small cost, so will all the essentials of cheap living so abundantly produced in this teeming basin. Then will the mighty forces generated by these elements be brought more extensively into activity, performing the work of additional millions of hands, diffusing comfort and enjoyment, increasing wealth and population, strengthening love of home and country, and fastening still closer the bonds of mutual interest which hold this vast republic under one government.

The Government continues to push its good work of prosecuting dishonest officials with the most commendable vigor and persistence. The trial of Collector Rorr, of Savannah, Georgia, charged with malfeasance in office, is in full progress, and expected to close in a few days. From the disclosures which it is said have been made to the officers of the Government, it is by no means certain that proceedings will not also be instituted against Governor Bullock and Foster Blodgett, of Georgia, Governor Reed, of Florida, and other persons who are alleged to be more or less deeply implicated in the wrong-doings of Rorr. The impartiality of the Administration has been of such a character that the people have a right to believe that in the furtherance of its declared purpose to give them an honest Government, honestly administered, it will not a moment hesitate to bring the guilty to punishment by reason of any political influence they may be able to exert, or any party service they may have rendered. President Grant has at least shown that in the matter of purifying the public service he intends to know neither friend nor enemy; and that rascals and robbers, whether of high or low degree, are to be treated according to the measure of their crimes. Certain of the persons indicted with ex-Congressman Stokes for perpetrating bounty frauds, have also reached Washington in custody. It is likely to be a hard winter for scoundrels, at least so far as they can be reached by the national arm.

The comparatively small decrease of the public debt for the month of November, reported in our telegraphic columns, is owing to the heavy sums expended in payment of pensions during the same period, except for which fact the decrease, instead of being $3,462,080, would probably have amounted to eight or nine millions at the least. Perhaps the best answer that can be given to the criticisms of those persons who are under the impression that the public debt has been increased by the operation of refunding, is that portion of the exhibit which shows among the liabilities bearing interest in coin, sixty-two millions of five per cents canceled and destroyed. This represents the amount of five per cents, issued up to the date of the statement, on which the Government is paying interest, and also the actual amount of five-twenties canceled and destroyed, on which, of course, no interest is paid. With the first of the present month interest ceased on the entire one hundred millions of called bonds, and it is expected that by the beginning of next year they will be all, or nearly all, received and destroyed. The fact that gold declined in Europe to 110½, which is only one-eighth per cent. from the lowest point reached since the closing of the war, is the best proof of the estimation in which the management of the finances is held by the capitalists of the country at large.

We are in receipt of Postmaster-General Creswell's Annual Report. He recommends the postal telegraph as it has been adopted in England, and "deprecates further delay as injurious to the public interests." The "purchase of the present telegraph lines and their appurtenances" is the frame-work of the recommendation. As to the cost, he expresses the belief that "the department itself can aid materially in raising the money needed through postoffice savings banks, if Congress will authorize their establishment," and is prepared to "undertake the organization and management of the telegraph in connection with its other duties." The question is presented at considerable length, fortified with cogent arguments.

Water Works and Fires in Cities.

A plan of water supply for large cities is proposed by an engineer in New York, which it is claimed would furnish an effective means of preventing extensive conflagrations. Concisely stated, the plan is the distribution of water under a high pressure, being utilized or not through hydrants to the square inch. This mode of distributing power is not new in its application to small areas, Sir William Armstrong having some years ago brought it into use in England for wharf cranes and other purposes where steam power was either inconvenient or unsafe. Some of the city water works of England also deliver their water under such a head that the pressure is utilized for a number of minor purposes, such as blowing church organs, driving washing machines, and other work of a light character. Property carried out, it is stated that the system would not only give cities a much more effective control over large fires than any fire apparatus on the present plan can do, but that it would also furnish motive power for elevators in warehouses, printing presses, machine shops, and all works not using power on a very large scale, more cheaply and safely than through the ordinary modes of developing power from steam, while the reduction of insurance rates which such a control over fires would produce, would also be a further advantage. It is claimed that, had the streets of Chicago been lined with pipes carrying water under such a pressure, and the hydrants thereto been developed in its manufactories, warehouses, dwellings and public institutions, it would have been next to impossible for the conflagration to have reached the dimensions it did. Whether the plan is as feasible and valuable as is claimed, we are not competent to judge; but since whatever system promises to conduce to the greater safety of life and property deserves to be fairly and impartially studied, it might not be amiss for our Water Commissioners, and those who are familiar with the use of water in pressure engines, to give the subject investigation, with a view to ascertaining its practicability for adoption here.

The property and interests of the Camden and Amboy Railroad and Transportation Company, the New Jersey Railroad and Transportation Company, the Delaware and Raritan Canal Company, constituting the United Canal and Railroad Companies, as set forth in the deed of trust transferred to the Pennsylvania Railroad Company at twelve o'clock on Friday night. The company has issued a notice to all the agents and employees to perform the duties in which they have been employed until further notice. There will doubtless be numerous and important changes in the details of the passenger and freight business between Philadelphia and New York. It is understood that a new depot will be erected at West Philadelphia, as also the old restriction which stopped the New York trains at the line of the Pennsylvania Road at Mantua is now removed, there will be an improvement of running time between the two cities.

While Wendell Phillips clamors for the expulsion of all Chinese from the country, and some State and city officials on the Pacific coast seem to be in collusion with their persecutors, being apparently unable or powerless to bring the murderers and tormenters of these poor fellows to justice, the Government authorities in parts of China are setting a very different example. A letter from the Superintendent of the Methodist Episcopal Mission in the Hokchiary district, south of Foochow, relates accounts of three outrages in different places, upon native missionaries, in each of which cases the local magistrate or military officer promptly interfered, rescued the victims, and took immediate measures to punish the assailants. In each instance the preacher would have been killed but for the noble and firm conduct of the authorities.

For several years past the ruffians of New York city have found politics a better paying and less dangerous profession than that of pocket picking. Now, however, that Tweed, Connolly, and other Tammany politicians, who kept their political clubs in public expense, have gone to the penitentiary, are unable longer to maintain an army of professional repeaters, these fellows have again resorted to their old occupations of pocket picking and sneak thieving, and there is, consequently, a great increase in the crimes of house robbery and robbery from the person in that city. The Superintendent of Police says the winter will be a dangerous one for honest people, who are accordingly warned to be on their guard.

The lessee of the Queen's Theatre, London, has made a managerial hit which attracts much public attention. The novelty consists in the patrons of the theatre deciding by vote the dramas that shall be acted in it. Ballot boxes are placed in different parts of the house and voting slips are attached to the programmes. The audience are requested by advertisement to detach and place in the boxes their respective votes, and the result is subsequently made public, and the will of the majority complied with.

MESSAGE
OF THE
President of the United States.

WASHINGTON, December 4, 1871.

The following is the President's message, just transmitted to Congress:

ENFORCEMENT OF THE LAWS.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

In addressing my third annual message to the law-making branch of the Government, it is gratifying to be able to state that during the past year success has generally attended the effort to execute all laws found upon the statute-books. The policy has been not to inquire into the wisdom of the laws already enacted, but to learn their spirit and intent and to enforce them accordingly.

DISASTERS BY STORM AND FIRE.

The past year has, under a wise Providence, been one of general prosperity to the nation. It has, however, been attended with more than usual disasters, in the loss of life and property by storm and fire. These disasters have served to call forth the best elements of human nature in our country, and develop a friendship for us on the part of foreign nations which goes far toward alleviating the distresses occasioned by these calamities. Tobe-be-volent who have so generously shared their means with the victims of these misfortunes will find their reward in the consciousness of having performed a noble act, and in receiving the grateful thanks of earth, women and children whose sufferings they have relieved.

OUR RELATIONS WITH FOREIGN POWERS.

The relations of the United States with foreign powers continue to be friendly. The year has been an eventful one, in witnessing two great nations, speaking one language and having one lineage, settling by peaceful arbitration disputes of long standing, and which at one time bring involved them both to bloody and costly conflict. An example has thus been set which, if successful in its final issue, may be followed by other civilized nations, and finally be the means of returning to productive industry millions of men now maintained in the service of the disputes of nations by the bayonet and the broadside.

THE TREATY OF WASHINGTON.

I transmit herewith a copy of the treaty alluded to, which has been concluded since the adjournment of Congress with Her Britannic Majesty, and a copy of the Protocols of the conferences of the Commissioners by whom it was negotiated. This treaty provides methods for adjusting the questions pending between the two nations. Various questions can be adjusted by arbitration. I recommend Congress at an early day to make the necessary provision for the tribunal at Geneva, and for the several commissions on the part of the United States, called for by the treaty. His Majesty, the King of Italy, the President of the Swiss Confederation and His Majesty the Emperor of Brazil, have each consented, on the joint request of the two Governments, to name an arbitrator for the tribunal at Geneva. I have caused my thanks to be suitably expressed for the readiness with which the joint request has been complied with by the appointment of gentlemen of eminence and learning to these important positions. His Majesty, the Emperor of Germany, has been pleased to consent to the appointment of the two Commissioners, and has consented to act as the arbitrator to which any difference between the United States and Great Britain. The contracting parties in the treaty have undertaken to regard as between themselves certain principles of public law for which the United States have contended from the commencement of their history. They have also agreed to bring these principles to the knowledge of the other maritime powers, and to invite them to accede to them. Negotiations are going on as to the form or the mode by which the invitation is to be extended to other powers. I recommend legislation necessary on the part of the United States to bring into operation the articles of the treaty relating to the fisheries and to the other matters touching the relations of the United States toward the British North American provinces, to become operative so soon as the proper legislation shall be had on the part of Great Britain and its possessions, as it is meant by the treaty that reciprocal advantages shall come operative before the fishermen of the United States begin to make their arrangements for the coming season.

I have addressed a communication, of which a copy is transmitted herewith, to the Governors of New York, Pennsylvania, Ohio, Indiana, Michigan, Illinois, and Wisconsin, urging upon the Governments of the several States the propriety of a prompt action on their part to carry into effect the object of the article of the treaty relating to the improvement of the canals on either side connected with the navigation of the lakes and rivers forming the boundary, in terms of equity by the immediate action of the countries. It is hoped that the importance of the object and the benefits to flow from it will secure the speedy approval and legislative sanction of the States concerned.

THE FORTY-NINTH PARALLEL.

I renew the recommendation for an appropriation for determining the true position of the forty-ninth parallel of latitude, where it forms the boundary between the United States and the British North American provinces, between the Lake of the Woods and the summit of the Rocky Mountains. The early action of Congress in this matter would probably save put it in the power of the War Department to place a force in the field during the next summer.

TERMINATION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH FRANCE.

The resumption of diplomatic relations between France and Germany, have enabled me to give directions for the withdrawal of the protection extended to Germans in France, by the diplomatic and consular representatives of the United States in that country. It is just to add that the delicate duty of the protection has been performed after the close of the latter and the Consul General at Paris and the various Consuls in France, under the supervision of the latter, with great faithfulness as well as with good taste and tact. Their course has received the commendation of the German Government, and has wounded no susceptibility of the French.

GERMANY STILL FRIENDLY.

The Government of the Emperor of Germany continues to evince a friendly feeling towards the United States, and a desire to harmonize with the moderate and just policy which this Government maintains in the family of nations, as well as with the south American Republics. I have given assurances that the friendly feelings of that Government are fully reciprocated by the United States.

The ratifications of the consular and naturalization conventions with the Austro-Hungarian Empire have been exchanged.

ITALY.

I have been officially informed of the annexation of the States of the Church to the Kingdom of Italy, and the removal of the capital of that kingdom to Rome. In conformity with the established policy of the United States, I have recognized this change. The new treaty of commerce between the United States and Italy, which, by the favor of Congress, powers have agreed in this treaty that private property at sea shall be respected during a war between the two powers. The United States have embraced the opportunity of incorporating this rule into the obligations of nations.

CLAIMS OF AMERICAN CITIZENS AGAINST SPAIN.

The forty-first Congress, at its third session, made an appropriation for the organization of a mixed commission for adjudicating upon the claims of citizens of the United States against Spain, growing out of the insurrection in Cuba. That commission has since been organized. I transmit herewith the correspondence relating to the organization of the commission. It is to be hoped that this commission will afford the claimants a complete remedy for their injuries.

RESTORATION OF PEACE BETWEEN SPAIN AND SOUTH AMERICA.

It has been made the agreeable duty of the United States to preside over a conference at Washington between the plenipotentiaries of Spain and the allied South American Republics, which has resulted in an armistice with the reasonable assurance of a permanent peace.

RUSSIA—THE GRAND DUKE—CATACAZY.

The friendly relations which have so long existed between the United States and Russia continue undisturbed. The visit of the third son of the Emperor is a proof that there is no desire on the part of the Government of Russia to diminish the force of these relations. The hospitable reception which has been given to the Grand Duke is proof that on the part of the people the same feeling exists that government. The indiscreet conduct of the Russian Minister at Washington rendered it necessary to ask his recall, and the decline to again receive that functionary as a diplomatic representative. It was impossible with self-respect to do less. I just regard to the dignity of the country, to permit Mr. Catacazy to continue to hold intercourse with the Government to which he was accredited, after the comment officials and during his persistent interference through improper means in the political affairs between the United States and other powers. In accordance with my wishes, this Government has been relieved of further intercourse with him, and I trust that the management of the affairs of the Imperial Legation has passed into the hands of a gentlemen entirely unobjectionable.

OUR INTERCOURSE WITH JAPAN.

With Japan we continue to maintain intimate relations. The Cabinet of Yeddo has, since the close of the last session of Congress, selected citizens of the United States to serve in offices of importance in several departments of the Government. I have reason to think that this selection is due to an appreciation of the disinterestedness of the policy which the United States have pursued towards Japan. It is our sincere wish to maintain that policy disinterested and just policy with China as well as Japan. The correspondence herewith submitted also shows that there is no disposition on the part of this Government to swerve from its established course.

THE WAR WITH COREA.

Prompted by a desire to put an end to the barbarous treatment of our shipwrecked sailors on the Corean coast, I instructed our Minister at Peking to endeavor to conclude a convention with Corea for securing the safety and humane treatment of such mariners. Admiral Rogers was instructed to accompany him with a sufficient force to protect him in case of need. A small surveying party, while on reaching the coast, was treacherously attacked by a Corean force, without provocation or notice, for explanation and apology. Neither came, and after an ardurous march over a rugged and difficult country, the forts from which the outrages were committed were reduced by a gallant assault, and were destroyed. Having thus punished the criminals, and having vindicated the honor of the flag, the expedition returned, finding it impossible under the circumstances to accomplish the object of the treaty. I respectfully refer to the correspondence relating thereto herewith submitted, and leave the subject for such action as Congress may deem to take.

THE MEXICAN FREE ZONE.

The Republic of Mexico has not repealed the very objectionable laws established, relative to what is known as the Mexican free zone, on the border of the United States. It is hoped that this may yet be done, and that more stringent measures may be taken by the Republic for restricting the smuggling on its frontiers. I hope that Mexico, by its own action, will soon relieve this Government of the difficulties experienced from these causes.

THE SOUTH AMERICAN REPUBLICS.

Our relations with the various Republics of Central and South America continues, with one exception, to be cordial and friendly. I recommend such appropriation by Congress regarding the overdue installments under the award of the Venezuela Claims Commission of 1868, as the circumstances of that case governement present no justification for their absence of effort to meet their solemn treaty obligations. The ratification of the reciprocity treaty with Nicaragua has been exchanged.

EMANCIPATION OF SLAVES IN BRAZIL.

It is a subject for congratulation that the great Empire of Brazil has taken the initiatory step towards the abolition of slavery. Our relations with that Empire, always cordial, will naturally be made more so by this act. It is not too much to hope that the government of Brazil may hereafter find its labor interests, as well as intrinsically right, to advance and extend the emancipation more rapidly than the present attempt contemplates. The true prosperity and greatness of a nation is to be found in the elevation and education of its laborers. It is a subject for regret that the reforms in this direction which were voluntarily promised by the statesmen of Spain have not been carried out in its West India colonies. The laws and regulations for the apparent abolition of slavery in Cuba and Porto Rico leave most of the laborers in bondage with no hope of release until their lives become a burden to their employers.

AMERICAN CITIZENS OWNING SLAVES ABROAD.

I desire to direct your attention to the fact that citizens of the United States, or persons claiming to be citizens of the United States, are largely interested in foreign lands of this species of property, forbidden by fundamental law of their alleged country. I recommend to Congress to provide by a treaty or legislation a suitable remedy against the holding, owning or dealing in slaves or being interested in slave property by foreign lands, either as owners, holders or mortgagees by citizens of the United States.

THE CUBAN INSURRECTION.

It is to be regretted that the disturbed condition of the island of Cuba continues to be a source of annoyance and of anxiety. The existence of a protracted struggle in such close proximity to our own territory, without apparent prospect of an early termination, cannot be other than an object of concern to a people who, while abstaining from interference in the affairs of other powers, naturally desire to see every country in the undisturbed enjoyment of peace, prosperity and the blessings of free institutions. Our naval commanders in Cuban waters have been instructed, in case it should become necessary, to spare no effort to protect the lives and property of *bona fide* American citizens, and to maintain the dignity of the flag. It is hoped that all pending questions with Spain growing out of the insurgin Cuba may be adjusted in the spirit of peace and conciliation which has hitherto guided the two powers in their treatment of such questions.

EDUCATION OF AMERICAN YOUTH FOR DIPLOMATIC SERVICE IN CHINA AND JAPAN RECOMMENDED.

To give importance and to add to the efficiency of our diplomatic relations with Japan and China, and to further assist in attaining the objects of those people, and to secure to the United States its share of the commerce destined to flow between those nations and the balance of the commercial world, I earnestly recommend that an appropriation be made to support at least four American youths in each of those countries, to serve as a part of the official family of our ministers there. Our representatives would not even then be placed on an equality with the representatives of Great Britain and of some other powers. As now situated, our representatives in China and Japan have to depend for interpreters and translators upon natives of those countries, who know our language in the rudest form, or procure for the occasion the services of employees in foreign business houses, or the interpreters to other foreign Ministers. I would also recommend that measures for the purpose of supporting the American lines of steamers now plying between San Francisco and Japan and China, and the Australian line, almost our only remaining lines of ocean steamers, and of increasing their services.

PUBLIC BUILDINGS.

Has been reduced to the extent of eighty-six millions, fifty-seven thousand, one hundred and twenty-six dollars and eighty cents during the year, and by the negotiation of national bonds at a much less rate of interest than on the public debt has been so far diminished that now the sum to be raised for interest accounts is more than forty millions of dollars less than on the first of March, 1869. It was highly desirable that this rapid diminution of the burden of both the principal and interest of the debt should be made known to the people of the country and to convince its citizens of their entire ability to meet every dollar of liabilities without unduly disturbing them.

DIMINUTION OF THE BURDENS OF TAXATION.

But in view of the accomplishment of these desirable ends, of the rapid development of the resources of the country, the present system of taxation large demands and the amount already paid. It is not desirable that the present resources of the country should continue to be taxed in order to continue this rapid reduction of the principal of the debt. A modification of both the tariff and internal tax laws. I recommend that all taxes from internal sources be abolished, except those collected from tobacco, vinous and malt liquors, tobacco in its various forms, and for stamps. In readjusting the tariff, I suggest that a careful estimate be made of the amount of surplus revenue collected under the present laws, after providing for current expenses of the government, the interest account and a sinking fund, and that this surplus be reduced in such a manner as to afford the greatest relief to the greatest number. There are many articles not produced at home, but which enter largely into general consumption, which might be made to bear proportionately more than those articles which are manufactured at home, such as medicines compounded, &c., &c., from which very little revenue is derived, but which would be a general use. All such articles I recommend to be made free. Should a further reduction be found to prove advisable, I would then recommend that it be made upon those articles which can best bear it, without disturbing home production or reducing the wages of the American laborer. I have not entered into figures, because they can be found in the report of the Secretary of the Treasury.

SALARIES OF COLLECTORS OF CUSTOMS.

The present laws for collecting the revenue pay collectors of customs small salaries, but provide for moieties or shares in all seizures, which, at the principal ports of entry particularly, raise the compensation of these officers to a large sum. It has always seemed to me as if this system must at times work prejudicially to the interests of the country. It holds out an inducement to dishonest officers to neglect the honest discharge of their duties, to be lax in their scrutiny of goods entered, and to make seizures on trivial technicalities. Your attention is respectfully invited to this subject.

GOLD AND THE CURRENCY.

The continued fluctuations in the value of gold, and consequently in the premium on it, has a most damaging effect upon the increase and development of the country, in keeping up prices of all articles necessary in every day life. It is the cause of much speculation, bordering closely on to national morals and the national finances. If the question can be met as to how to get back to specie payments, the basis of value constantly and uniformly approaching par with specie, a very desirable object will be gained.

THE ARMY.

For the operations of the army in the past year, the expense of maintaining it, the estimates for the ensuing year, and for continuing sea coast and other improvements, I refer you to the accompanying report of the Secretary of War. I call your attention to the provisions of the act of Congress approved March 3d, 1869, which discontinues promotions in the staff corps of the army by the principle of selection, and I recommend that the officers in each grade in the staff corps be fixed, and that whenever the number in any grade falls below the number so fixed, that the vacancy may be filled by promotion from the grade below. I also recommend that when the number of officers in the several staff corps in any grade may be filled by selection from the corps in which the vacancy occurs.

THE NAVY.

The report of the Secretary of the Navy shows an improvement in the number and efficiency of the naval force, and a material reduction in the expenses of supporting it. This is due to the policy which has been adopted, and is being extended as fast as material will admit, of using smaller vessels as cruisers on the several stations. By this means we have been enabled to occupy an ocean and larger extent of cruising grounds, to visit more frequently the ports where our interests may be in jeopardy, and generally to discharge more efficiently the appropriate duties of the navy in time of peace, without exceeding the number of men or the expenditures authorized by law. During the past year the navy has been called upon to perform the duty of relief the men and officers for the coast survey, and has completed the surveys authorized by Congress at Behring Sea, the Aleutian Islands, and Tehuantepec, and under like authority has carried out an expedition, completely fitted out and equipped, to explore the unknown ocean of the North. The suggestions of the report as to the selection of officers for the engineer corps, the reorganization of the navy, and the plan recommended for reducing the number of the line to a grade not above that of the gradual abolition of certain grades of officers, the reduction of others, and the employment of some in the service in which they graduate, are wise, and considered, and deserve the thoughtful attention of Congress. I also recommend legislation on the subject of the rank above the rank of Captain be by selection instead of by seniority. This course will secure in the higher commands officers selected for merit, and incentive to young officers to improve themselves in the knowledge of their profession. The present cost of maintaining the navy is less than the expenditure of that of the preceding year, and the estimates for the ensuing year are moderate, as per accompanying report of the Secretary of the Navy.

THE POSTAL DEPARTMENT.

The enlarged revenue of the Postoffice Department, as shown by the accompanying report of the Postmaster General, exhibits a gratifying increase in that branch of the public service. It is the index of the growth of education and of the prosperity of the people, two essentials to the existence and the vigor and stability of republics. With a vast territory like ours, much of it sparsely populated, but all requiring facilities for intercourse, it is important to be expected that this Department can be made self-sustaining; but a gradual approach to this end from year to year is confidently expected. That day is not far distant when the Postoffice Department of this country will prove a great and positive blessing to the whole people than it is now. The suggestions of the Postmaster General for improvements in the service, I commend to your favor, and earnestly recommended to your special attention. Especially do I call attention to the favorable consideration of the plan for uniting the telegraphic system of the United States with the postal system. It is believed that by such a union the public interchanging could be much reduced, and the service as well as the revenue, would be benefited by the change. I further advise the extending the telegraph through portions of the country where private enterprise will not supply the facilities required. Above all, the efforts to bring a people widely separated into a community of interests, are always benefitted by a rapid intercommunication; education, the great work of republican institutions, encouraged, by increasing facilities for the dissemination of knowledge in all parts of the country. The desire to reap the benefits of such improvements will stimulate education. I refer you to the report of the Postmaster General, for full details of the operations of last year, and for comparative statements of results with former years.

THE CIVIL SERVICE IN WASHINGTON.

There has been imposed upon the Executive branch of the Government the execution of the act of Congress, approved April 20, 1870, and commonly known as the Ku-Klux law in a portion of the State of South Carolina. The necessity of the course pursued will be demonstrated by the report of the committee to investigate Southern outrages. Under the provisions of the act referred to, I issued proclamations declaring the attention of the people of the United States to the fact that the power conferred upon me by the act for the extraordinary purposes thereby conferred upon me, except in case of imperative necessity, of making known my purpose to exercise such powers, beginning in South Carolina, and ending with the purpose of securing to all citizens of the United States the peaceful enjoyment of the rights guaranteed to them by the constitution and laws. After the passage of this law information was received from time to time that combinations of the character described by the act existed in other localities than in many parts of the Southern States, particularly in certain counties of Kentucky. Careful and cautious investigation was made, and it was ascertained that in counties of that State such combinations were formed for the purpose of depriving a sufficient portion of the citizens to control the local authorities, and thereby failing altogether to elect, or depriving the emancipated class of the substantial benefits of freedom and of preventing a fair election. These facts were communicated to me, and I did not sympathize with their own views. Among their operations were frequent scourgings and occasional assassinations, generally perpetrated at night by disguised persons, the victims in almost all cases being citizens of unoffending political opinions from their own, or freed persons who had shown a disposition to claim equal rights with their citizens. Thousands of inoffensive and well-disposed citizens were the sufferers by this lawless violence. Therefore, on the 12th of October, a proclamation was issued, in the terms of the law, calling upon the members of such combinations to disperse within five days, and to deliver to the Marshal or military officers of the United States all arms, ammunition, uniforms, disguises, and other means and implements used by them for carrying out their unlawful purposes. That the full time might have been heeded, on the 17th of October another proclamation was issued, suspending the privilege of the writ of *habeas corpus* in the counties named in that State. Direction was given that within the counties so designated persons committing the crimes referred to, and to the members of such unlawful combinations should be arrested by the military forces of the United States, and delivered to the civil authorities to be dealt with according to law. In two of said counties, York and Spartanburg, arrests to a thousand and upwards have been made. At the last account the number of persons thus arrested was one hundred and sixty-eight, several hundred of whom, criminality was ascertained to be of an inferior degree, were released for the present on bail. These have generally made confession of their guilt. Great caution has been observed in making these arrests, and notwithstanding the large number of the class of cases, but one innocent person is now in custody. The prisoners will be held for regular trial, in the judicial tribunals of the United States, at as soon as it appeared that the authorities of the United States were about to take cognizance of the offenses committed. Bail in many cases was accepted, and under like authority has been set out in expedition, completely fitted out and equipped, to explore the unknown ocean of the North. The suggestions of the report as to the selection of officers for the engineer corps, the reorganization of the navy, and the plan recommended for reducing the number of the line to a grade not above that of the gradual abolition of certain grades of officers, the reduction of others, and the employment of some in the service in which they graduate, are wise, and considered, and deserve the thoughtful attention of Congress. I also recommend legislation on the subject of the rank above the rank of Captain be by selection instead of by seniority. This course will secure in the higher commands officers selected for merit, and incentive to young officers to improve themselves in the knowledge of their profession. The present cost of maintaining the navy is less than the expenditure of that of the preceding year, and the estimates for the ensuing year are moderate, as per accompanying report of the Secretary of the Navy.

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THE MORMON QUESTION.

In Utah there still remains a remnant of barbarism, rep